

## King holds talks with Major

LONDON (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday met with British Prime Minister John Major and discussed with him bilateral relations as well as the peace process and efforts to achieve comprehensive peace in the region. The King and Mr. Major also discussed the question of terrorism and emphasised the urgent need to combat it in all its forms. Accompanying His Majesty were Royal Court Chief Awn Khasawneh and the Jordanian Ambassador to Britain Fuad Ayyoub.

## Sheikh Sabah congratulates Kabariti on success of King's surgery

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Wednesday received a message from Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah congratulating him on the success of the surgery His Majesty King Hussein underwent in London. Sheikh Sabah is supportive of improving ties with the Kingdom and other Arab countries which were perceived to have taken a pro-Iraqi stand during the Gulf war. But Sheikh Sabah's position is not shared by other Kuwaiti officials and these differences are said to have been the cause for the foreign minister's absence from the Cairo Arab summit.

## Amnesty: Israel deliberately hit U.N. base in Qana

LONDON (R) — Amnesty International said on Wednesday that Israel had deliberately shelled a United Nations compound in Lebanon last April in an attack that killed more than 100 civilians. In a strongly worded statement, the London-based human rights group said the killings during Israel's "Grapes of Wrath" operation against Hizbollah guerrillas in South Lebanon were in clear breach of the rules of war. Amnesty also accused Hizbollah of breaking international law with its rocket attacks on civilians across the border in Israel, but the main thrust of the Amnesty statement was highly critical of Israel.

## Israel court improves prisoner releases

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israel's supreme court on Wednesday threw out an appeal from an ultra-nationalist Jewish organisation against the release of two Palestinian women prisoners. The court said it could not overrule the decision by President Ezer Weizman to pardon the prisoners and set them free, judicial sources said.

## Israeli Arab arrested in connection with London bombings

HAIFA (AFP) — An Israeli Arab has been arrested in connection with two anti-Israeli bombings in London in 1994, judicial sources said on Wednesday. The 30-year-old suspect was secretly arrested a few days ago at his residence in the town of St. Jean d'Acree in northern Israel, but his identity was not revealed. A court in the town ordered that he be held for 10 days. The man denies all the charges. Two car bombings in London in July 1994, the first near the Israeli embassy and the second against an organisation collecting funds for Israel, wounded about 20 people.

## Jews allowed to Dome of the Rock

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israel's supreme court Wednesday authorised a group of ultra-nationalist Jews to visit the Dome of the Rock, for a key annual Jewish commemoration, court officials said. The Faithful of the Dome of the Rock will be allowed to go to the mosque on Thursday "as long as they follow police instructions," one official said. Police said small groups would be allowed to enter the area if their presence "did not disturb public order or threaten security."



AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY, JULY 25-26, 1996, RABI I, 9-10, 1417

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# Kabariti says decision on subsidies is irreversible House to debate issue Sunday

By Tareq Momani

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament Wednesday decided to devote its regular session Sunday, for discussions on the government's policy towards bread subsidies, and Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti declared his government would not go back on its plans in this regard.

The House speaker, Sa'd Hayel Srour, called for the special session after 41 of the 80-member House moved a motion urging the government to abandon its plan for "rechanneling" of the subsidy.

Mr. Kabariti said during the session that Parliament enjoyed wider powers and can hold the government to account for its performance but added: "I only exercise the authority invested in me by the Constitution. What the government is doing in the case of the bread falls under its authority. In my view (the rechanneling of the bread subsidy) is in the interest of the nation and the Jordanian citizens."

"We do not intend to increase the burdens on the citizens but we can always reassess the system (of compensation) with a view to amending it should we find any faults."

Asked what his government would do in case Parliament decided to hold a

vote-of-confidence session, Mr. Kabariti said: "I bear the full responsibility according to the Constitution. I am not afraid of a vote-of-confidence session as long as I am shouldering my responsibility and duty."

According to the Constitution the House can only hold a vote-of-confidence session during its regular session that starts in December.

"I do not want to prove myself more patriotic than any other member of Parliament, but I want to point out that we are facing an extremely difficult situation and we cannot remain silent, and we have found no better alternative for the new system," added Mr. Kabariti.

"We should not risk losing all that we have achieved in the past years or go back on economic reforms for which we have been appreciated by the world community."

"No government would like to lose its popularity but the national interest should top any other consideration," added Mr. Kabariti.

Mr. Kabariti also announced that the government will very soon embark on an austerity and rationalisation programme.

"We will announce plans for the various ministries in this concern," he said.

During the House regular session opposition deputies



Abdul Karim Kabariti

demand that the House reject government-proposed laws on the Jordan News Agency and the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation claiming that the laws would pave the ground for their privatisation.

Islamist Deputy Hamam Saeed said: "The state media should remain under full state control." The new laws, he said, would open the way for the creation of private stations, with dangerous consequences to the nation.

Another deputy Suleiman Saad told the House that

private radio stations would have serious consequences on the country.

Their views were countered by Information Minister Marwan Muasher who stressed that at the initial stage there would be no privatisation of these services and "we will allow the private sector to be represented on the boards of these institutions."

The two deputies' requests were rejected by the House when they were put to the vote and the House subsequently referred the draft laws to its committees to study them.

## U.S. envoy starts official visit, meets with premier

By Mervat Suwadeh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — U.S. special Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross arrived here Wednesday night on the fourth-leg of a regional tour widely seen as a bid to break the stalemate in the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Ross later held talks with Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti and is expected to meet with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Thursday morning before leaving for Israel.

But before leaving for the Middle East, Mr. Ross said his tour is not aimed at restarting the frozen Israeli-Syrian talks. He laid out the modest goal of briefing Arab leaders on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's visit to the U.S.

"The purpose of this trip is to go out and deal with the leaders of a number of countries in the aftermath of the (Netanyahu's) visit here. I really have two kinds of purposes: one to offer more thorough briefings on what our discussions with Mr. Netanyahu have been and also to begin a process of consultation," Mr. Ross told reporters in comments carried by the Jerusalem Post.

He said following the trip, he would "consult with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to see what appropriate next step might be."

Mr. Ross's tour, which has already taken him to Egypt, Syria and Lebanon, comes amid intensive efforts in the region spearheaded by Jordan and Egypt to give impetus to the stalled peace process.

Last week, Mr. Kabariti met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Tel Aviv after holding talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Sharaa in Cairo.

Also, French Foreign Minister, Herve de Charette concluded a Middle East tour Wednesday after pledging to launch an initiative to secure the resumption of the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations.

In Washington, U.S. administration officials told the Jordan Times that the American administration will not take any direct move to step up the pace of the peace process.

Mr. Ross said the U.S. "cannot impose peace," and that "we can pursue it to find possible pathways and to create openings if there is in fact the potential opening."

## Assad, Ross discuss resuming talks

LATAKIA, Syria (AFP) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad on Wednesday met with U.S. envoy Dennis Ross amid an intense diplomatic drive to bring Israel and Syria back to the negotiating table.

The two men met in the presence of Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa, the U.S. ambassador to Syria Christopher Ross and his Syrian counterpart Walid Mouallem, the president's office said.

On Tuesday Mr. Ross met with Mr. Sharaa at this Mediterranean coastal town to discuss the future of the peace process. Talks

between Israel and Syria have been frozen for six months, and have made little progress since they were launched in 1991.

The Assad-Ross meeting came as the new Israeli right-wing government made its first overtures to Syria, asking Palestinian President Yasser Arafat to take a message to Damascus urging top-level talks.

Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy asked Mr. Arafat to hand over the message when he travels to Damascus on Thursday.

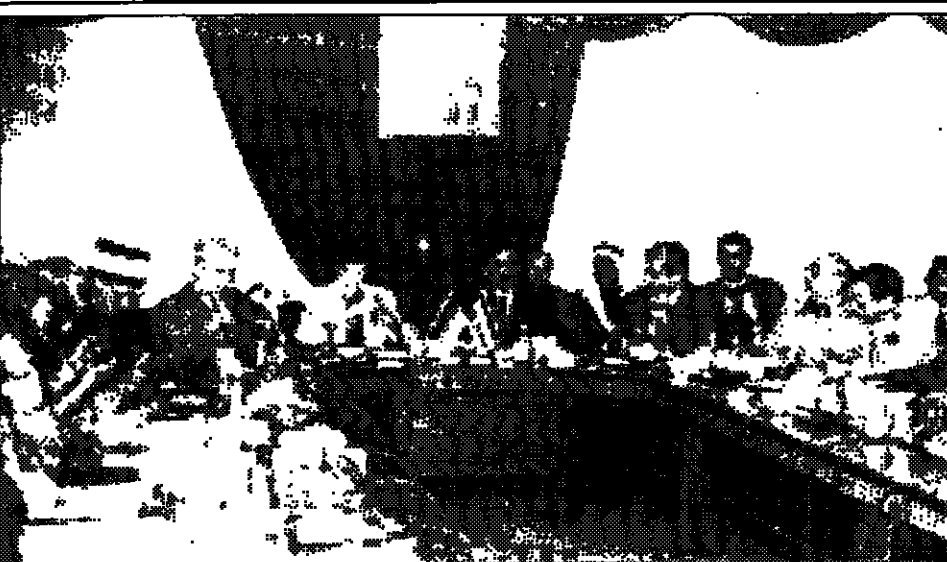
"Tell the Syrian Foreign Minister (Farouk Al Sharaa) that the way they

went until now did not advance peace," Mr. Levy told Mr. Arafat when they met Tuesday in Beit Hanoun in the Gaza Strip, according to an Israeli official.

"So, perhaps, (the Syrians) should do something and go for open dialogue. I am willing to meet him anywhere and anytime," Mr. Levy added, according to the official quoted Wednesday by the Jerusalem Post.

But Syria's government-run press warned Wednesday that Damascus would

(Continued on page 7)



House Speaker Sa'd Hayel Srour and President of the German parliament Rita Suessmuth address deputies at a meeting held at the House Wednesday (Petra photo)

## Bundestag president reiterates commitment to peace process, values Kingdom's role

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — President of the German parliament, the Bundestag, Rita Suessmuth emerged from talks with Jordanian officials Wednesday convinced that the peace process will move forward towards the attainment of comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Ms. Suessmuth, who arrived in Jordan Tuesday and was received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti and Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, Sa'd Hayel Srour, said that her optimism about the peace process stemmed from the commitment she felt in Jordan to the cause of comprehensive peace in the area.

"I have a more positive feeling about (the peace process) because there is a lot of commitment to bring it forward," Ms. Suessmuth told the Jordan Times in an interview.

Ms. Suessmuth stressed the importance of ensuring the success of the peace process to which she said there is no alternative. She praised the Kingdom's role in efforts to bring about peace to the area, saying that Jordan has "worked to bring about peace not just for itself but for the rest of

the countries of the region."

Ms. Suessmuth brushed aside opinions that Europe is playing a marginal role in the peace process, stressing that the European Union is playing a supportive role, especially on the economic level.

She said the role Europe is playing is the one chosen for it by countries of the region whose wish Germany and Europe respect.

"There was a division of task between Europe and the United States," she said. It is wise not to overwhelm the region with initiatives, she said, stressing the importance of coordinating

(Continued on page 7)

## Palestinian workers return to jobs in Israel

GAZA (R) — Thousands of Palestinian workers returned to jobs in Israel on Wednesday after the easing of a five-month-old blockade of PLO-ruled areas, officials said.

Palestinian officials distributed 2,083 work permits issued by Israel to workers in the Gaza Strip, raising the number of Palestinian labourers allowed to return to their jobs in the Jewish state to 27,483.

The 2,083 workers who got their permits on Tuesday left Gaza Strip this morning to work in Israel, Palestinian labour official Said Al Mudallal told Reuters.

He said Israel issued an additional 1,031 permits on Tuesday that would be distributed to workers in Gaza.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said last week that Israel would grant an additional 10,000 married Palestinian workers over the age of 30 entry to the Jewish state to work, bringing the number of workers from the West Bank and Gaza

Strip to more than 32,000. Of the 27,483 allowed to enter so far, 15,483 are from Gaza and 12,000 are from the West Bank.

Israeli government spokesman Shlomo Dror said: "Next week, we will start issuing an additional 5,000 permits to workers from the West Bank."

Israel imposed a tight closure on the West Bank and Gaza during a wave of suicide bombings that killed 59 people in February and March.

The closure has caused Palestinians severe hardship

as workers and goods have been kept from jobs and markets in Israel. Palestinians condemn the closure as collective punishment.

"The Israeli easing of the closure is a step forward, but the Palestinians' natural right is to have freedom of movement and work between Gaza and the West Bank," said Freij Al Kheiry, head of the civil liaison committee.

## De Charette concludes Mideast tour in Egypt

ALEXANDRIA (Agencies) — France wants to play an active role in the Middle East peace process which it predicts will be slow despite some encouraging signs, French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette told reporters Wednesday.

Mr. de Charette met with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak for nearly two hours for talks at the end of his Middle East tour.

"I think the road of peace will be a difficult and long road," he told reporters but the hopeful signs were that Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinians were serious in their quest for a lasting peace.

Also, Israeli hardline prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, seemed to have softened his stands regarding the peace with the Arabs. Tuesday's meeting between Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister

David Levy "was good and we want more of this," he said.

"What I felt in Israel is that there is a change in the mentality, although it is a gradual change but it is towards peace," he said.

The two men met privately at the president's residence in the Bourg El Arab neighbourhood of this Mediterranean port city.

In addition to Egypt, his trip took him to Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Israel and the Palestinian-controlled Gaza Strip.

In Jerusalem earlier Wednesday, Mr. de Charette told reporters that both Syria and Israel want to make peace and that France will help in getting talks between the two on track.

He made the remarks after meeting Mr. Netanyahu, Mr. Levy and President Ezer Weizman in his first visit to the Jewish state since elections in May changed the government.

In Gaza where he met with Mr. Arafat, the French minister said Israel should honour its pledge to withdraw from Hebron, the last West Bank city under Israeli occupation.

Mr. Arafat told Mr. de Charette that France had an important role to play because of the "difficult situation" created by the hard-line policies of Israel's new government.

"We are in need of the French role at this time more than anytime before," Mr. Arafat said. "We need France, and its important role to serve the peace process."

Mr. de Charette said France was committed to supporting the peace process.

"Peace is the only alternative, and for that everything that has been signed should be honoured, including Hebron," Mr. de Charette said.

He also urged Israel to go

ahead with talks on a final settlement and "respect the special situation of Jerusalem which is part of the negotiations."

In Israel, Mr. de Charette tried to win Israel over to the idea of a greater French role in the Middle East peace process.

Israeli leaders did not reject the proposal out of hand given France's good relations with the Jewish state's Arab neighbours Syria and Lebanon.

Mr. de Charette said that "France's commitment is now better understood by the Israeli side."

"The French position is not to act for one side rather than the other. France's role in the Middle East peace process was not questioned" by Israel, he said.

He added that "Fanco-Israeli cooperation is vital not only for our two countries but also for France's commitment to the Middle East."



## 3rd death in Turkish prison hunger strike

ISTANBUL (R) — A third prisoner died on Wednesday in a two-month hunger strike in Turkish jails and the justice minister headed to Istanbul for talks on what has become a critical test for the new Islamist-led government.

"There has been another death. Ilgin Ozkeskin died at 0805 this morning (0505 GMT) in Bayrampasa prison," an official from the Istanbul branch of the Independent Human Rights Association (IHD) told Reuters.

Ozkeskin, 35, had been on trial since 1994 for membership in an illegal leftist group, lawyers said. One inmate died on Sunday and another on Tuesday in the hunger strike in protest at prison conditions and the dispersal of left-wing inmates among various prisons.

Justice Minister Sevt Kazan was expected to visit Istanbul's Bayrampasa jail later on Wednesday. Zeynep Baran, a senior IHD official, told Reuters. Justice ministry officials confirmed Kazan was due to travel to Istanbul, but declined to comment on the new death or details of Kazan's visit.

Up to 300 inmates from illegal leftist groups have been on hunger strike in several different prisons since May. Hunger strikes often take place in Turkish prisons but deaths are rare. "There are about eight to 10 people in Bayrampasa prison alone who are in a coma," said lawyer Behic Asci, from the People's Law Bureau, which handles many cases dealing with



A group of Turkish gendarmes in riot gear use fire extinguishers to battle a fire on a bus which was set on fire by protesters supporting hunger striking prisoners Wednesday after they clashed with security forces in the suburbs of Istanbul (Reuters photo)

millant leftist groups. "There could be more deaths."

Security was tight at Bayrampasa, with several hundred police standing by. A crowd of about 100 people demonstrated outside the jail and were dispersed by riot police who beat the demonstrators and pulled them by the hair.

Human rights activists said Kazan's visit could be the key to determining whether or not the strike ended soon.

"Everything will be clear today," said another official from the human rights association. "With the minister's visit we will see what stance the state will take — although his statements yesterday were not very hopeful."

On Tuesday Kazan blamed the deaths on leftist militant "ring leaders," who he said forced the prisoners to continue the hunger strike after the ministry had cancelled new prison regulations that had sparked off

the protest. He said some Turkish prisons, including Istanbul's Bayrampasa and Umraniye jails and Buca prison in the western city of Izmir, had become "centres for terrorist education, not places where people serve out punishment."

"Security officials and other prison administrators cannot go near the prisoners behind the iron bars. Bayrampasa was under the control of 850-900 prisoners," he said in the speech in

parliament. "But we will gain control soon," Kazan said.

The minister said that several inmates had mobile phones and fax machines, which they used to coordinate between prisons and organise protests.

Prisoners say they are protesting at the dispersal of leftist inmates to jails across the country. They are also demanding the closure of the high-security Eskisehir prison, where inmates say they are badly treated.

Netanyahu calls for building confidence between Israel, Syria  
Israeli premier lauds Arafat-Levy meeting in remarks to Knesset panel

From the Jerusalem Post

ISRAELI PRIME Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned of an escalation of the security situation in north Israel if Syria continues its policy of indirect terror.

"If they pressure us with indirect terror to make us more flexible, they are making a mistake," he told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee on Tuesday, according to an official briefing.

"This policy will only bring about an escalation. In their place, I would try to build confidence between the Israeli public and Syria," he said. "We have to attain stability in Lebanon, because it's in both our interest and theirs."

In his first appearance before the committee as prime minister, Mr. Netanyahu said he had given this message to Egypt when he met with President Hosni Mubarak last week. Mr. Netanyahu said Syria, which identifies with Hizbollah's activities and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) could prevent terror. "We won't give up our right and obligation to act against terror," he said.

Regarding the negotiations with Syria, Mr. Netanyahu said he is committed to the continuation of agreements. "The decisive factor in the relations between the Israeli government and Syria are past contracts, and therefore the last framework — the Madrid conference — is the binding one. Syria's political demands in 1992 were less serious than those of 1996," he said.

Mr. Netanyahu dedicated a major part of his address to the principle of reciprocity in honouring the agreement

with the Palestinians.

"Yesterday's meeting between Foreign Minister David Levy and Yasser Arafat demonstrates our commitment to abide by agreements," he said. "Our suggestion is to renew the monitoring body which supervises ongoing handling of all the related matters and implementation of the interim agreement."

He said the Levy-Arafat meeting was an important step in arranging a means of dialogue on the interim agreement. The obligations had not been furthered by the previous government because of severe security problems, he said. He also recalled serious violations of the agreement that occurred last week, including the arrest of an Israeli citizen by the PNA.

"When I talk about reciprocity, I'm not talking about delaying tactics on my part," Mr. Netanyahu continued. "I want to promote the peace process, but on condition of the enforcement of all security commitments. We won't return to a situation of terror attacks being winked at by the Palestinian authority; we expect terror attacks to be thwarted. I'm not talking about a stabbing, but an attack which requires preparation and an infrastructure. We won't accept a situation in which the Palestinians don't make an effort on their part."

Mr. Netanyahu said he would consider meeting with Mr. Arafat if he saw it was important to furthering Israeli interests.

On Jerusalem, Mr. Netanyahu said, "I expect a specific commitment by the Palestinian authority to prevent political activities

(here). We will act to ensure that the PNA fully respects all its obligations."

Regarding Hebron, Mr. Netanyahu said, "For our part, there is a willingness to make progress, but the problem of implementation isn't simple. If there is a flare-up, it could torpedo the entire process. We're already finishing internal discussions to link two principles: Our sensitivity to security with our willingness to honour agreements."

On settlements Mr. Netanyahu said he differentiates between promises made at the political level and written agreements. "The government's approach in principle is that Jews can settle anywhere, but no settlement programme has been agreed on yet," he said. "There is no argument with the U.S. that the natural growth in the territories is 10 per cent."

Mr. Netanyahu said a thorough examination of the subject of settlements is being carried out and is likely to end by the weekend.

He also said there is agreement with the U.S. over the final arrangements.

"We, for example, are against a Palestinian state, but that won't prevent us from entering into negotiations. Our approach to Jerusalem won't full support in America, from all political parties and factions, and there was general American support for our approach to Jerusalem." Regarding his visit to Egypt, Mr. Netanyahu said it was made "to defuse tensions. President Mubarak had an impression that Israel wanted to stop the diplomatic process... I think a good relationship was created between myself and the Egyptian president."

## Egypt opens conference on religious dialogue

CAIRO (AP) — Muslim leaders from six continents opened a meeting Wednesday on promoting dialogue between faiths and showing Islam as a religion of tolerance. But Jews and religious leaders from Iran and Iraq were not invited.

The four-day gathering, called "Islam and the Future of Dialogue between Civilisations," is organised by the Egyptian government and largely attended by Sunni Muslims, the majority sect of Islam.

Opening the conference, Egypt's minister of religious endowments, Mahmoud Hamdi Zaqouq, said the world's religious leaders have a special responsibility toward building peace.

"The goal of this meeting is to establish peace and justice between all human

beings," he said.

President Hosni Mubarak made the same point in a letter sent to the participants, saying: "The peace we desire will not be delivered spontaneously but through joint cooperation."

The exclusion of Jews drew criticism from the Simon Wiesenthal Centre in the United States. This "flies in the face of the stated goals of the conference, to promote tolerance and a moderate image of Islam," Rabbi Abraham Cooper of the centre said in a fax sent to the Associated Press.

But Mr. Zaqouq said Jews may participate in further discussions on inter-religious dialogue, which his ministry plans in the future.

"This is not an issue," he said. "We are delaying the Jewish participation to a

later stage."

But an Egyptian official, speaking on exchange of anonymity, said the decision was made because of the hard-line policies toward peace negotiations adopted by Israel's newly elected prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu.

Also absent were representatives of the Shiite Muslims, a minority Islamic sect but the majority in Iran. An Iranian diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, said his government was not interested in attending the gathering.

An Iraqi diplomat, also insisting on anonymity, said Iraq has been excluded from such meetings since its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. He dismissed the meeting as a "Saudi-orchestrated conference."

## Sunni Muslim leader hails ban on female circumcision

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt's highest Sunni Muslim authority on Wednesday welcomed a government ban on carrying out female circumcision in the country's public hospitals.

"I support this decision to ban excision in hospitals, the doctors should now have their say. If they say that this is a harmful practice and it needs to be banned that we have to obey them," Mohammad Sayed Tantawi, the sheikh of Al Azhar, told journalists on the sidelines of an inter-faith conference here.

"There is no complete quote from the Prophet Muhammad which supports excision," he added.

Egyptian Health Minister Ismail Sallam said last week that female excision would be banned in "all hospitals, clinics and medical centers of the health ministry" and a campaign launched to stop

the practice altogether.

The government authorised state hospitals in late 1994 to perform the operation, which involves cutting away a girl's clitoris, in a bid to bring the widespread practice under control.

But Egyptian families have continued to resort to illegal "barbers," traditional performers of circumcisions.

Four girls died and four others were permanently crippled in 1995 due to complications from circumcision, according to the Egyptian Organisation of Human Rights (EOHR).

Last year, the EOHR sued the former sheikh of Al Azhar, Gad Al Haq Ali Gad Al Haq, for ruling that circumcision was an Islamic duty.

But his successor Tantawi has repeatedly said the practice is not required by Islam.

## Algerian president wants referendum on constitution

PARIS (R) — Algerian President Liamine Zeroual has proposed a referendum ahead of elections next year to amend the constitution and effectively bar Islamists from politics, Algerian newspapers reported on Wednesday.

The newspaper Liberté said a document presented to 12 opposition leaders, who met Mr. Zeroual for national reconciliation talks last week, specified there would be no change to the constitution without a popular referendum.

Mr. Zeroual presented a

memorandum to more than 170 political leaders and national figures after an exploratory round of talks in April and May.

The document outlined his plans to end the violence which has claimed an estimated 50,000 lives since 1992, when the army-backed authorities cancelled a general election the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win.

The banned FIS and radical Islamist groups battling to oust the secular government were excluded from national

reconciliation talks and in the memorandum, Mr. Zeroual proposed to disallow parties formed along religious lines.

He also suggested limiting the president's tenure to two five-year terms and introducing proportional representation in parliament.

The second round of talks is expected to be crowned with a national conference to seal the consensus ahead of a general election early next year. Newspapers say the conference is likely to be held at the end of August.

## JORDAN TELEVISION Tel. 773111-19

## PROGRAMME TWO

14:03 ..... Double Dragon  
14:25 ..... New Three Stooges  
14:32 ..... Here's Lucy  
15:00 ..... Varieties  
15:20 ..... Olympic Games  
19:00 ..... News in French  
19:10 ..... Olympic Games  
22:00 ..... News in English  
22:20 ..... Olympic Games

## PRAYER TIMES

04:11 ..... Fajr  
05:41 ..... Sunrise/Duha  
12:42 ..... Dhuhr  
16:23 ..... Asr  
19:43 ..... Maghreb  
21:13 ..... Isha

## CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Sweifeh, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church Tel.  
632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation  
Tel. 637440  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Terra Sancta Church Tel.  
623266  
Anglican Church Tel. 652826  
Armenian Catholic Church  
Tel. 771331  
Armenian Orthodox Church  
Tel. 775261  
St. Ephraim Church Tel.  
771751  
Armenian International Church  
Tel. 652526

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Tel. 824328  
German-speaking Evangelical  
Congregation Tel. 845457  
The Latter-Day Saints Tel.  
654932  
Church of Nazareth Tel.  
675691  
The Evangelical Local Church  
in Amman Tel. 811295  
English-speaking  
Latin Catholics Parish Tel.  
614190.

## WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.  
Moderate summer weather conditions will prevail with temperatures slightly below average and winds northwesterly moderate to active. On Friday, temperatures are expected to rise slightly becoming around average. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman ..... 18/30  
Aqaba ..... 25/36  
Deserts ..... 18/33  
Jordan Valley ..... 25/36  
Yesterday's high temperatures:  
Amman 29, Aqaba 35 Humidity  
readings: Amman 45 per cent,  
Aqaba 47 per cent.

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

## NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Hanna Mansour ..... 798863  
Dr. Afif Shukri ..... 898863  
Dr. Nidal Al-Dahleh ..... 827195  
Dr. Khalil Ramadan ..... 774397  
Firas pharmacy ..... 661912  
Ferdows pharmacy ..... 778336  
Al Asena pharmacy ..... 637055  
Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945  
Shmeisani pharmacy ..... 637660  
Nakronch pharmacy ..... 623672  
Najib pharmacy ..... 847632

IRBID:  
Dr. Mazen Abu Bakir 276852  
Al Quds pharmacy ..... (—)

ZARQA:  
Dr. Youssef Barzallah ..... 988075  
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES  
Food Control Centre 637111  
Civil Defence Department 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue ..... 630341  
Civil Defence Emergency 199  
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade ..... 617101  
Blood Bank ..... 775121  
Highway Police ..... 843402  
Traffic Police ..... 896390  
Public Security Department 630321  
Hotel Complaints ..... 605800  
Price Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage Complaints ..... 897467  
Amman Municipality Com-

plaints ..... 787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121  
Overseas Calls ..... 010230  
Central Amman Telephone Repairs ..... 623101  
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101  
Jordan Television ..... 773111  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111  
Water Authority ..... 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815615  
Electric Power Company ..... 636381  
RJ Flight Information 08-53200  
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS  
AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre ..... 813813/32  
Khalidi Maternity ..... 644281/6  
Alkaleh Maternity ..... 642441/2  
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362  
Malhas, J. Amman ..... 636140  
Palestine Shmeisani 607071  
Shmeisani Hospital ..... 669131  
University Hospital ..... 845845  
Al-Muasher Hospital ..... 667227/9  
The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37  
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 664164/6  
Italian, Al-Muhajreen ..... 777101/3  
Al-Bashir ..... 775111/26  
Army, Marha ..... 891611/5  
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 602240/50

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AIRPORT  
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200 where it should always be verified.  
Information on other flights are supplied on phone 08 (52700) or 08(53250).

## ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
08:15 ..... Sanaa (RJ)  
09:15 ..... Dhahran (add) (RJ)

Amal Hospital ..... 674155  
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery ..... 865199  
ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital ..... 09983323  
Zarqa National Hospital ..... 09900560  
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732  
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990490  
IRBID:  
Princess Basma Hospital ..... 021275555  
Greek Catholic Hospital ..... 021272275  
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital ..... 021347100  
AQABA:  
Princess Haya Hospital ..... 031314111

Other Flights  
06:30 ..... Tel Aviv (LY)  
13:40 ..... Doha (GF)  
14:00 ..... Riyadh (SV)  
14:40 ..... Sharjah (AH)  
20:35 ..... Cairo (MS)  
20:55 ..... Paris, Damascus (AF)  
21:10 ..... Beirut (ME)  
23:20 ..... Istanbul (TK)  
23:25 ..... London (KJ)  
23:40 ..... Amsterdam (KL)  
03:00 ..... Rome (AZ)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights  
09:50 ..... Aqaba (RW)  
19:45 ..... Tel Aviv (RW)

## DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
04:30 ..... Riyadh (RJ)  
06:35 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
07:00 ..... Moscow (RJ)  
11:15 ..... Amsterdam, New York

10:05 ..... Riyadh (RJ)  
10:20 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
10:30 ..... New Delhi (RJ)  
10:35 ..... Muscat, Dubai (RJ)  
11:30 ..... Colombo (RJ)  
17:20 ..... Moscow (RJ)  
17:30 ..... London (RJ)  
17:30 ..... Casablanca (RJ)  
17:45 ..... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
19:00 ..... Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)  
19:15 ..... Athens (RJ)  
20:25 ..... Rome (RJ)  
20:30 ..... Al Ain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
01:15 ..... Larnaca (RJ)

## Other Flights

06:30 ..... Tel Aviv (LY)  
13:40 ..... Doha (GF)  
14:00 ..... Riyadh (SV)  
14:40 ..... Sharjah (AH)  
20:35 ..... Cairo (MS)  
20:55 ..... Paris, Damascus (AF)  
21:10 ..... Beirut (ME)  
23:20 ..... Istanbul (TK)  
23:25 ..... London (KJ)  
23:40 ..... Amsterdam (KL)  
03:00 ..... Rome (AZ)

11:55 ..... Abu Dhabi Al Ain (RJ)  
12:15 ..... Amsterdam, Montreal, Toronto (RJ)  
12:15 ..... Rome (RJ)  
12:30 ..... Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)  
13:10 ..... Paris (RJ)  
13:20 ..... Athens (RJ)  
13:25 ..... London (RJ)  
20:35 ..... Larnaca (RJ)  
21:10 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
21:20 ..... Madrid (RJ)  
21:45 ..... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)  
22:00 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
22:20 ..... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)  
22:30 ..... Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)

## Other Flights

07:25 ..... Tel Aviv (LY)  
07:45 ..... Beirut, London (BA)  
08:45 ..... Beirut (ME)  
14:30 ..... Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)  
15:30 ..... Riyadh (SV)  
15:30 ..... Algiers (AH)  
21:25 ..... Cairo (MS)  
23:55 ..... Damascus, Paris (AF)  
00:40 ..... Beirut, Amsterdam (KL)  
04:00 ..... Rome (AZ)  
06:00 ..... Istanbul (TK)  
06:40 ..... London (KJ)

## Royal Wings (RW) Flights

10:00 ..... Aqaba (RW)  
20:30 ..... Aqaba (from Tel Aviv) (RW)

## HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday

Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday

Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday

Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

## MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple ..... 700/500  
Banana ..... 600/600  
Banana (mukhammar) ..... 520/520  
Banana (imported) ..... 780/500  
Cabbage ..... 370/280  
Carrot ..... 140/88  
Cauliflower ..... 190/120  
Cucumber (large) ..... 140/80  
Cucumber (small) ..... 230/140  
Eggplant ..... 200/120  
Garlic ..... 650/400  
Grapes ..... 450/300  
Lemon ..... 570/350  
Marrow (large) ..... 250/150  
Marrow (small) ..... 380/250  
Mulukhiyah ..... 120/70  
Onion (dry) ..... 150/80  
Okra ..... 650/400  
Orange ..... 400/300  
Plum ..... 330/250  
Pea ..... 600/400  
Pear ..... 720/500  
Pepper (hot) ..... 320/200  
Pepper (sweet) ..... 320/200  
Potato ..... 320/220  
String bean ..... 530/350  
Sweet melon ..... 200/130  
Tomato ..... 110/70  
Water melon ..... 110/70

## Prosecutor jailed

By Rana Hussein  
Based in the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A weekly editor of the Jordan Times was ordered jailed by the prosecutor general for 15 days on charges of inaccurate reporting and undermining national unity. Dany Kiwan, 62, editor of the weekly, was called to the prosecutor general's office for a hearing Monday after the newspaper's director, Mohammad Amin, filed a complaint with the Attorney General about several articles published in the newspaper on Nov. 15, 1995. The articles, which were published in the newspaper, were said to be defaming the government. The prosecutor general, Mr. Khashanah, told the Jordan Times.

## Experts of bread

By Ghaila Alul and Samir Hijawi  
Based in the Jordan Times

AMMAN — An economic expert warned that Jordan's wheat will face increased competition as a result of hiking prices which consume the main staple of 2.5 million to 3 million Jordanians whom the Ministry of Social Development say are at the living in abject poverty. Another economic expert said that more Jordanians would be hit hard by the impending nearly three-fold increase in bread prices because he estimates that 25 per cent of Jordanians live under poverty line. The government is proposing with its plans to raise the price of bread from 80 fils per kilogramme to 250 fils per kilogramme in order to cut the country's budget deficit. Economic expert Mohammed Shahhat said bread subsidies were based on field studies which were adjusted to average inflation and removing those subsidies now would leave many people unable to obtain their necessary daily food intake. However, economist

## Regent receives envoys

AMMAN (Petra) — HRH Crown Prince appointed ambassadors to Regent copies of their credentials. Each Republic, Victor Manuel of Morocco, and non-resident of Honduras, Lars Peter Blinker and Norma Asaga of Guinea a months on the tombs of the King.

## Premier visits control, a

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister inspection and Control Board ways of improving the financial reviewed the general activities of the AICB's team, whose management offices, monitor government administration. Mr. Kabari amendments to certain regulation prime minister visited the Audit Board said that the bureau, which planning training programmes to

## FRCSI to be administered

AMMAN (J.T.) — The University who will administer and supervise (FRCSI) Examinations A and B process today. Munir Gharibeh for three days beginning Thursday statement said, Arab countries for Part B, it said, The Roy ceremony on Monday, July 29, who pass this examination, the







# Burundi's Hutu president flees to U.S. embassy

BUJUMBURA (Agencies) — Burundi's Hutu President Sylvestre Ntibantunganya fled to the U.S. embassy Wednesday amid signs that a fragile power-sharing accord was on the brink of collapse only days after a bloody massacre of more than 300 Tutsis.

Mr. Ntibantunganya has taken refuge in the residence of the U.S. ambassador in the capital Bujumbura, a diplomat said, and several other Hutu leaders are seeking sanctuary with Westerners.

"There's panic in the president's entourage," the diplomat said. "It is not certain that the president was right to seek shelter and he could soon leave his refuge, but it is the beginning of the end."

The main opposition party, the Union for National Progress (UPRONA), has accused the Hutu president of high treason and announced that it is withdrawing its support for Mr. Ntibantunganya, in power since the end of September 1994.

Rumours of a coup were circulating after UPRONA denounced a September 1994 government convention that is the basis of the country's institutions, providing a power-sharing agreement between the Hutus and minority Tutsis.

The accord — set up in an effort to avoid the genocide that devastated neighbouring Rwanda two years ago — has been under increasing pressure with the escalation of ethnic fighting in Burundi.

UPRONA's move could lead to the departure of its members from the government, including Tutsi Prime Minister Antoine Nduwayo.

"The executive office has decided to withdraw from the consensus built around Sylvestre Ntibantunganya," UPRONA Chairman Charles Mukasi said, accusing him of committing "acts of high treason."

The party "is entering immediately into contact with other partners in order to endow the country with new institutions," he added.

Meanwhile, about 2,000 people wearing black took to the streets of the capital Wednesday in a silent protest at the weekend massacre of 330 Tutsis in the central town of Bugendana, an attack blamed on Hutu rebels.

The massacre, blamed on Hutu rebels, has further fuelled ethnic tensions in Burundi, which has teetered on the edge of wholesale civil war for three years.

In a symbol of the bitter divisions ripping apart this central African country, Mr. Ntibantunganya was forced to flee Tuesday from the site of a mass grave in Bugendana under a hail of rocks thrown by angry Tutsis mourning the massacre victims, while Mr. Nduwayo walked through unharmed.

The government convention was signed after the genocide in Rwanda where more than 500,000 mainly Tutsis and liberal Hutus were massacred by extremist Hutus.

Mr. Mukasi, himself a Hutu, has insisted in the past that UPRONA, while representing minority Tutsis, is not a Tutsi organisation but rather a party following a "national logic."

Out of 16 parliamentary members, 12 are Hutu, he said in June.

Burundi has been the scene of blood letting since the country's first Hutu president, Melchior Ndadaye, was killed in October 1993 during an abortive putsch by the country's army, which is dominated by minority Tutsis.

The assassination unleashed an outburst of ethnic violence which has so far killed more than 50,000 people.

On Tuesday, the U.N. Security Council expressed "horror and dismay" over the weekend massacre but failed to take up a call from U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali for "concrete and immediate action."

Meanwhile aid workers said Wednesday Burundi still wants Rwandan Hutu refugees to leave but has stopped the forced repatriation in which at least three people died of suffocation.

About 15,000 of the 85,000 Rwandan refugees in camps in northern Burundi were expelled in a joint Burundi-Rwanda operation which lasted five days until it was halted under intense international pressure Tuesday.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) condemned the forced repatriations, in breach of international treaties. Many of those expelled were packed like sardines in sealed container trucks and three died of asphyxiation.

The UNHCR spokesman in Rwanda, Paul Stromberg, said Tuesday Burundi had asked the agency to persuade refugees in the biggest camp in the north, Magara, to go home.

"We (UNHCR) have been requested to start a sensitisation campaign on voluntary repatriation in Magara Camp," Mr. Stromberg said by telephone.

Magara is now home to at least 44,000 Rwandan Hutu refugees who fled their homeland in 1994 after the genocide of Rwandan Tutsis and moderate Hutus.

Alain Bourrelly of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in northern Ngozi region said Burundi still wanted the refugees out.

"They (authorities) are halting the exercise until next week. The authorities are going to Magara today to inform the refugees that they have to go home," Mr. Bourrelly said by telephone from Mr. Ngozi.

The refugees, like the rest of the nearly two million Hutus camped in Zaire and Tanzania, fear reprisals by Rwanda's new Tutsi-dominated army if they go back.



Burundian President Sylvestre Ntibantunganya (with glasses) is rushed away by his bodyguards after he was stoned by angry Tutsis attending a mass funeral for some 340 civilians killed in a massacre by Hutu rebels (Reuters photo)

## Spain, France want bigger role in NATO military structure

BRUSSELS (AFP) — France and Spain are in the midst of informal discussions with their NATO allies on the two countries' future role within the alliance's integrated military structure, sources on both sides said Tuesday.

The aim of the talks is for France and Spain to play a bigger role within the alliance's military structure which is being reorganised, said one official who has taken part in the discussions that started several weeks ago.

"The talks are going well," he said, adding: "Everything is possible but nothing will be definitely decided before September."

French President Jacques Chirac last April decided to end his country's 30-year boycott of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) integrated military command on condition that the alliance agree to enhance its European identity and move towards more flexible structures. Spain, which joined NATO in 1982, stayed out of its military structure, has also followed

suit. The current discussions between the NATO allies envisage several scenarios, including carving Europe into four zones or the creation of a NATO military headquarters in Toulon, southern France, with a rotating command structure shared between France, Italy and Spain.

Such a scenario would translate into a loss of influence for the current Naples-based NATO military command for southern Europe, to which Italy is strongly opposed. Another proposal calls for dividing France into two regions, north and south, with each comprising small NATO headquarters that would be dependent on the current one.

Yet another proposal is that Admiral Leighton Smith, head of the NATO Southern Command, be replaced by a European, a gesture that would weaken U.S. influence on NATO and emphasise the alliance's aim for a European identity. The scenarios being envisaged come following a meeting of NATO foreign

ministers in Berlin last month during which they agreed to define for the first time a specifically European role for the alliance, permitting operations under the control of the 10-member Western European Union.

That would allow, for instance, Spain to contribute more troops and have more say when it comes to military operations such as the one in Bosnia, where the United States has taken a leadership role.

More generally, the allies are also discussing the alliance's enlargement to include Eastern European countries in coming years and make the military structure more flexible and able to adapt to the changing political environment in Europe.

The alliance was created in the wake of World War II to ward off any possible Soviet invasion, but with the end of the cold war the NATO command is confronted with "local" crises to which it needs to be able to react.

## China diverts teenage libido with dance classes

BEIJING (R) — Chinese schools are to rechannel the sex drive of teenagers by means of dance classes and exercise, the China Daily said Saturday. "It is no use confining their sexual desire," the China Daily quoted the principal of the Beijing number 25 middle school as saying. "We are trying to offer more opportunities to make young people participate in beneficial activities," he said. The school has started daily classes in exercises and dancing to redirect the often excessive libido of its students. According to a survey sponsored by China's State Education Commission, three per cent of respondents aged 14 to 16 have had sexual intercourse and 15 per cent have kissed, hugged or touched the opposite sex. Up to 70 per cent of teenagers viewed intercourse as "above board, pure and blissful," but an alarming 70 per cent of them were not mentally prepared for menstruation and the first ejaculation, the Beijing Youth Daily said. Educational measures were needed to reduce the number of sexual offences committed by teenagers, who accounted for 45 per cent of all sex offences, the China Daily said.

## Sex tourists face prosecution in U.K.

LONDON (AFP) — Police and child protection workers Wednesday welcomed government proposals to prosecute in British courts sex tourists who abuse children overseas. The government's planned legislation comes amid mounting outcry over British paedophiles who travel to countries such as Thailand, the Philippines and Sri Lanka, specifically to seek sex with child prostitutes.

Other countries, such as New Zealand, Sweden and Germany, already have laws against sex tourism. In June 1995 a Swedish national, Bengt Brolin, was jailed for three months in his own country for sex offences against a 13-year-old boy in Thailand. British coordinator of the coalition on child prostitution and tourism, Anne Badger, welcomed the government announcement as "an important step in punishing and deterring Britons who commit these kind of offences abroad."

The decision also won favour with senior police officers. West Mercia Chief Constable David Blakey said that "criminals who commit sexual offences in other countries, often on an organised basis, are an affront to a civilised country." "The difficulties in bringing them to justice are many, but this will make prosecution more possible and we welcome the new provisions."

## Unwed Tianjin couples face a 'sin tax'

BEIJING (AFP) — Couples in the bustling eastern city of Tianjin face a "sin tax" of up to 1,000 yuan (\$120) if they live together without getting married. Xinhua reported Wednesday. And Chinese hoping to marry foreigners can put their dreams on hold or move away from Tianjin, formerly a treaty port with an atmosphere similar to Shanghai in the roaring 20s. The newly issued code forbids marriage agencies from arranging Chinese-foreigner matches, and says any "cupid clubs" must get business licences from Industrial and Commercial Administration Departments. Mixed marriages "sometimes have problems," a Tianjin city official said by telephone. He refused to elaborate, saying only "our aim is not to fine people but to educate them," and adding that nobody had yet received the maximum fine, which, differently to Xinhua, he put at 2,000 yuan.

## North Korean deserter crosses border to South

SEOUL (R) — A hungry North Korean farmer said he crossed the heavily fortified demilitarized zone Wednesday to defect to South Korea because he wanted to avoid the fate of his fellow citizens who were dying of starvation.

"At present food rations in North Korea have stopped completely and a person is dying almost every day," a statement released by the South Korean army quoted Park Chol-Ho as saying.

"I decided to defect to the South rather than starve to death," he was quoted as saying.

North Korea has been suffering from an acute food shortage after the worst floods in a century ravaged much of the isolated Stalinist country last year.

Seoul Defence Ministry spokesman Yoon Chang-Ro said Mr. Park, 41, walked across the four-kilometre-wide buffer zone dividing the Korean peninsula to a South Korean guardpost in the border area of Chollwon.

Fog helped Mr. Park avoid detection and he surrendered to a Southern soldier near the guardpost. In 1986, a North Korean soldier defected through the

same area, the spokesman said.

Wearing a ragged brown long-sleeved shirt and black trousers, Mr. Park raised his arms in the air and shouted "hooray" as he posed for the press at Chollwon.

Mr. Park told reporters at the site he ate rice and wild greens at home for the last time on July 15 and had since then survived on tree barks and roots.

Details on when and how he left the North were not given.

Mr. Park, weighing 55 kg (121 lbs) and 165 cm (5.5 feet) tall, left behind a wife and two children in North Korea, the army statement said.

He has two other children from a previous marriage. The Defence Ministry earlier said he had left behind his wife and three sons.

North Koreans defecting to the South recently have told similar stories of their country suffering from food shortages and of people dying.

One defector recently told the media that elderly people and children were being left out in the streets to die.



North Korean farmer Park Chol-Ho, 41, raises his arm on Wednesday in triumph few hours after he defected to the South by walking across the heavily-guarded fortified demilitarized zone separating the two Koreas (Reuters photo)

## Hashimoto vows to combat food poisoning

TOKYO (AFP) — Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto vowed Tuesday to take "every possible measure" to combat Japan's worst outbreak of food poisoning in half a century after three people died in less than 48 hours.

In a statement released after an emergency cabinet meeting to discuss the unprecedented spread of the colon bacillus known as O-157, Hashimoto said measures of support would include medical treatment.

He also vowed to strengthen public health management and review hygiene procedures for the preparation of school lunches.

The meeting followed three deaths from the latest outbreak which has been concentrated in the suburb of Sakai in the western city of Osaka where more than 6,000 people have fallen ill since July 13, mainly schoolchildren.

"We now feel we can't simply label this outbreak as food poisoning. We need to treat it as a highly infectious disease," Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiroku Kajiyama told a news conference earlier in the day.

Asked if there were any possibility that the government would formally declare an epidemic, a move which would lead to quarantine measures, he replied: "We are having difficulties with that, as it could unnecessarily trigger a panic."

Earlier, Mr. Hashimoto voiced despair at the apparent inability of the medical profession to contain the crisis.

"It makes you realise there are limits to what medicine can do. It is unbearable," he said. "It is painful even to say 'I pray for the dead.'"

A task force dedicated to fighting the outbreak met for the first time Wednesday. Set up by the Education Ministry, it was expected to devise a checklist for cooking facilities and food preparation.

Officials, meanwhile, ruled out school lunches as the possible cause of the infection after another task force examined an estimated 1,352 items served at 90 primary schools in Sakai over a three-day period from July 10.

No trace of the colon bacillus was found in either any of the foods which came from about 60 local suppliers or samples of tap water and dust collected from the kitchens of the schools, a Sakai government official said.

News reports earlier linked the spread of the bacterial infection to school lunches containing conger eel, a marine species usually eaten raw in Japan. Other reports have blamed raw beef liver, dried bonito flakes, which are an essential ingredient of the popular clear soup dashi, and salads containing canned tuna.

The outbreak dramatically escalated late Tuesday with the death of a 10-year-old girl from an advanced form of the infection, marking the third fatality in 48 hours and taking the national toll for the year to seven.

Authorities said the girl from Sakai died from blood in the lungs. The other two deaths, involving an 85-year-old woman from Osaka and a 56-year-old factory worker from nearby Kyoto, were from a kidney disorder.

With the rate of new infections rebounding Tuesday, the food poisoning scare was clearly taking its toll on Japanese politicians.

Sakai Mayor Hideo Hataya was seen brushing away tears at a televised news conference Wednesday morning. "I will make the utmost effort to prevent a recurrence of things like this," he said.

Mr. Hashimoto upbraided Health and Welfare Minister Naoto Kan, who was out of Tokyo Wednesday to deliver a speech in southern Japan.

"What I'm angry about is that the health minister has gone off somewhere at a time like this," he said.

## Clinton, courting gay vote, calls for AIDS funding

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Seeking to shore up his support in the homosexual community, President Bill Clinton Tuesday asked Congress to double funding for a programme that provides cutting-edge drugs to poor AIDS patients.

Speaking at a dinner where he was raising money for the Democratic Party, Mr. Clinton said he would ask Congress to boost funding for the programme to \$117 million from \$52 million next year.

The announcement appeared to be an effort to make amends with gay voters, many of whom have been infuriated by the president's support of legislation that would make same-sex marriages illegal.

Emotions on that issue have run so high in the homosexual community that San Francisco's Mayor Willie Brown told Mr. Clinton to stay away from the city on a campaign trip last month, warning of huge protests. But Mr. Clinton did come to San Francisco and large-scale protests did not materialise, despite the city's large and politically active gay population.

Mr. Clinton, who is winding up a three-day fundraising tour of the west coast, presented his decision on the AIDS drug programme as a matter of public health, rather than politics.

"These programmes alone are helping almost 70,000 low-income people who are HIV-positive to buy drugs that were recently discovered and that can extend their lives," Mr. Clinton said.

"Is this an area where we want a weak or non-existent government? Is this an area where the government is a problem? I don't think so," Mr. Clinton added. "This is an area where we are furthering our common objectives."

The White House said the



President Bill Clinton places his hand on the face of a young child as he talks to the child's mother after an address at the Weave Counseling Centre in San Francisco Tuesday (Reuters photo)

money will go to the states AIDS drug assistance programmes, which help about 69,000 poor people with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) obtain cutting-edge, life-extending drugs.

Mr. Clinton, who has made stops in Denver, Los Angeles, Sacramento and San Francisco in the past 48 hours, has devoted his time to drumming up close to \$5 million for the Democratic Party.

Although polls show that the president leads his Republican challenger Bob Dole by 15-20 per cent nationally and as much as 27 per cent in California, Mr. Clinton is taking no chances with the state.

Including this trip, he has made 25 visits to California since taking office and is expected to return several times before the Nov. 5 election.

Arriving in San Francisco for a flying, seven-hour

visit Tuesday afternoon, he took time to make an open play for the Asian-American vote, taking a stroll through Chinatown and munching on a lotus-seed "moon cake."

Earlier in the day in a Sacramento speech he was more focused on public policy, proposing setting up a national phone number for people to get help for non-emergency matters to relieve the burden on the local 911 police hotline.

The proposal, put forward on the final day of a campaign swing along the west coast, is a familiar blend for the president, exploiting technology to fight crime at little cost to the federal government.

Mr. Clinton also pitched the idea squarely to women voters, announcing it at a Sacramento counselling centre for battered women and saying it would help fight domestic violence.

Russian troops, back village Tuesday. Chechens deal with separatists

## Chechens

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russian soldiers were killed and wounded in fighting in Chechnya in the past 24 hours, including fierce clashes around the devastated village of Gudermes, the Russian military command said.

Four soldiers were killed and 17 wounded when separatist guerrillas attacked a federal army base near Gudermes, ITAR-TASS news agency quoted the command as saying.

The Russian soldiers were killed and 17 wounded in fierce clashes in Gudermes, north Caucasus region, the command said.

Meanwhile, Tim G. L. of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) said that the Russian military command was doing its best to hold the line as long as possible, he said.

He and transport communications problems due to the upsurge in fighting, said a separatist commander, Staff Sgt. Matthew could not be reached. Khasan, commander of the North Caucasus Military Region, said the Russian military command was doing its best to hold the line as long as possible, he said.

## Christoph

JAKARTA (AFP) — China and the United States, seeking to steady their sometimes shaky relations, announced a series of high-level contacts Wednesday, including a visit to Beijing by Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Both sides agreed that by request, the secretary state, Mr. Christopher would pay a visit to China late November. Q. told reporters after meeting Mr. Christopher here.

He said Chinese Defence Minister Chi Haotian would also, at the invitation of U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry, visit the United States within a year.

Sino-U.S. joint commissions on science and technology, commerce and trade and a joint economic commission would meet in the United States this year while at the invitation of National Security Adviser

## U.N. sp allegations

NEW YORK (Agencies) — A woman for the United Nations General Secretary, Sylvestre Ntibantunganya, was used to bolster Dr. Gha's reelection are unjustified.

When asked at Tuesday's session into the use of the U.N. Secretary-General, he replied: "You know, at the secretary-general, have preoccupied over the last few days, not the least of which are these kinds of allegations. Although it is pre-emptive, it is not a pre-emptive move against a man who is extremely stressful."

"We doubt very much that these charges or the disinformation that is being



## At least 70 feared killed in Sri Lanka train blast

COLOMBO (R) — At least 70 people were feared killed and 200 were injured after a bomb ripped through a packed commuter train in the Sri Lankan capital Colombo Wednesday evening, a senior government official said.

"I can confirm 200 people have been injured, some battling for survival. The death toll is possibly higher than 70," said the official who was helping supervise rescue operations at the railway station at Dehiwala, an outlying Colombo suburb.

The latest violence to wrack the country came as government troops recaptured the strategic army camp of Mullaitivu in the northeast from separatist Tamil Tiger rebels Wednesday after some of the bloodiest fighting of their 13-year-long ethnic war.

Officials in the eastern naval base city of Trincomalee told Reuters that troops were combing the camp for possible booby traps planted by Tamil Tiger guerrillas who left the camp after seven days of intense battle.

"The troops are now within the perimeters of the camp," one official said. "It is stinking with corpses."

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) had earlier said it had taken complete control of the camp, a claim the army denied.

No one has claimed responsibility for the train blast but Industrial Development Minister C. V. Gooneratne, who rushed to the scene, blamed the LTTE.

"The LTTE are hitting us here because the security in (the centre of) Colombo is very tight," he said.

A Reuters reporter saw 36 intact bodies and many dismembered limbs at one mortuary. Officials said they were still looking for more bodies.

Police said they had detained two men after the blast, which occurred around 6:00 p.m. (1130 GMT), but their identities were unknown. They said two crowded carriages were wrecked, indicating there could possibly be two bombs.

Security officials said they had recovered identity cards of army personnel from the train wreck.

Tamil residents in the blast area were running for cover, fearing attacks by angry mobs of Sinhalese, who comprise the ethnic majority in this Indian Ocean island nation.

Security forces had braced for rebel attacks in Colombo as the LTTE observed the July 23, 1983, anniversary of the start of their struggle for a homeland for the Tamil minority in the north and east of the island.

Earlier Wednesday, Sri Lanka's Defence Ministry said more than 60 Tamil rebels were killed when government troops and warplanes attacked the army camp at Mullaitivu, 280 kilometres northeast of Colombo.

The LTTE, in their account of the same battle Tuesday, said 22 soldiers were killed by a rebel mortar bomb that scored a direct hit on an army landing craft ferrying soldiers to the war zone.

The LTTE says it had killed more than 1,200 government troops in the battle for the camp, which began last Thursday.

The army has not given firm figures but says tentative figures showed 300 troops killed with a further 200 wounded. It said before Wednesday's Defence Ministry statement that more than 300 guerrillas had been killed.

The LTTE accused Sri Lankan Armed Forces Wednesday of bombarding civilian areas near the Mullaitivu Camp.

Senior army officials said the rebel claim was unfounded.

"The armed forces, angered by the fall of Mullaitivu Camp with unprecedented casualties on their side, have begun to blindly shell and bomb civilian areas in reprisal attacks," the rebel Voice of Tigers radio said.

The latest fighting shattered government assertions that the Tigers are largely a spent force after the government captured their stronghold in Jaffna in April.

Russian troops, backed by an armoured fighting vehicle, advance on Chechen rebel positions in the Vedeno region village Tuesday. Chechen rebel leader Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev accused the Kremlin yesterday of breaking peace deals with separatists as the two sides battled for control of the south mountain areas (Reuters photo)

## Chechens rebel kill 6 Russians as clashes erupt in Bamut

MOSCOW (AFP) — six Russian soldiers were killed and 23 wounded in fighting in Chechnya in the past 24 hours, including fierce clashes around the devastated southwestern village of Bamut, the Russian military command said.

Four soldiers were killed and six wounded when Chechen separatist guerrillas surrounded a federal unit near Bamut, ITAR-TASS news agency quoted the command as saying.

Two Russian soldiers were killed and 17 wounded in other clashes in the breakaway north Caucasus republic, the command said. Meanwhile Tim Guldman, head of the Grozny mission of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), said peace talks due for Wednesday would not now take place.

He said transport and communications problems due to the upsurge in military action meant separatist Chief of Staff Aslan Maskhadov could not meet General Anatoly Kvashnin, commander of the Northern Caucasus Military Region.

The OSCE was doing all it could to hold the meeting as soon as possible, he added.

ded, and said that "in spite of recent events," the separatists were willing to discuss implementation of peace accords.

The separatist leadership said Monday they had agreed in principle to such a meeting, which would be aimed at relaunching an accord signed June 10 at Nazran in neighbouring Ingushetia.

It stipulated most Russian forces would withdraw from Chechnya by Sept. 1 in return for Chechen disarmament, when the republic would be demilitarised ahead of elections in which the separatists could take part.

Mr. Guldman said it was very important for both sides to get together again because of the land and air offensive launched by Russian forces in Chechnya two weeks ago.

It shattered a fragile six-week ceasefire in the 19-month war, which has killed some 40,000 people, most of them civilians.

Bamut, where the guerrillas held out until May against overwhelming odds, has become a symbol of the Chechen resistance.

The rebels said Tuesday they had recaptured the vil-

lage, but the federal command denied the claim.

The area came under Russian air attack last week.

General Vladimir Sharmov, deputy commander of federal forces in Chechnya, said that for a third day running bad weather prevented the use of air power against rebel strongholds.

While the Russians said they were unable to launch air strikes Tuesday, the rebels said warplanes raided the mountain villages of Shatoi and Imum-Kale, some 40 kilometres south of the Chechen capital Grozny.

Meanwhile a Chechen political leader close to the separatist movement said Wednesday Russia should recognise Chechnya as an independent state but retain its grip on the armed forces and economy.

The status of "associated independence" would give the republic recognition as "an independent state subject to international law" while allowing it to the Russian Federation, Salambek Maigov proposed.

Mr. Maigov is the head of the Bashtan Party which represents Chechens living in Russia and an expert on the rebel Chechen negotiating team in peace talks with

Moscow aimed at ending the 19-month conflict in the breakaway republic.

His comments were published in the Nezavisimaya Gazeta daily, which wrote that his status "gives reason to suppose his opinion is shared by the leaders of the armed Chechen opposition."

Russia has refused to accept the rebels' demands for independence, marching troops into Chechnya in December 1994 to quell a three-year separatist drive.

Mr. Maigov said the United Nations could guarantee an accord between Moscow and Grozny under which Chechnya would concede "some of its sovereign rights" to the Kremlin, but would enjoy separate nationality.

Grozny could delegate to Moscow responsibility for "setting up a collective defence and commanding the collective armed forces," while Russia and Chechnya would maintain joint currency, borders, customs and economic zone, and defence system.

There was no immediate comment on Mr. Maigov's proposals from either the rebel leadership or the Russian side.

## Fire engulfs Georgian Justice Ministry

TBILISI (R) — Fire swept through Georgia's Justice Ministry Wednesday morning just before members of the country's Supreme Court were sworn in and a top security official said arson could not be ruled out.

The fire, which police said began at 9:40 a.m. (0440 GMT), blazed on the top floor of the four-storey brick building in the centre of the capital Tbilisi.

Dozens of firefighters from more than ten brigades managed to bring the blaze under control about an hour later. Thick smoke blanketed the city centre and police

blocked off the main Rustaveli thoroughfare to traffic.

Police did not comment on the cause of the fire. There were no immediate reports of injuries.

The nine members of the country's Constitutional Court took an oath of office in a nearby building at 11 a.m. (0600 GMT).

President Eduard Shevardnadze spoke at the formal ceremony and later toured the scene. Snipers kept watch from the roof of the building.

Justice Minister Tedi Nizidze said the fire appeared to have started in an area of

the building which holds legal archives.

Deputy Security Minister Avtonid Ioseliani told reporters at the scene that the fire might have been set deliberately.

"It could be anything but one cannot exclude the possibility of arson," he said.

In an incident several months ago, an anonymous caller said a bomb had been placed at the Justice Ministry. Work was suspended for the day but police found no explosive device.

The court is hearing several cases against close associates of late former Pre-

sident Zviad Gamsakhurdia, who was overthrown in a coup in 1992. He mounted an armed uprising 18 months later but failed to regain power.

Mr. Shevardnadze's government has put on trial members of his inner circle who participated in the uprising. Some are charged with treason and could face the death penalty.

The defendants, who include top rebel Commander Loei Kobalidze, say the cases against them are political show trials.

## Toll rises to 50 as floods spread in Bangladesh

DHAKA (AFP) — Flash floods have hit new areas of Bangladesh killing 11 more people and pushing the toll to 50, reports and officials said Wednesday.

Army and paramilitary troops are working round-the-clock to help the civil administration in an aid operation in the second round of flooding since early June.

The disaster has gripped 35 out of Bangladesh's 64 administrative districts.

A total of 50 people have died following reports that fresh flooding has claimed another 11 victims, the

Bhorer Kagoj newspaper said, while the government has confirmed 19 deaths.

Flood Forecasting and Warning Division (FFWD) warned more low lying areas in the capital Dhaka and suburbs might be submerged by Wednesday in floods that had threatened embankments along the Brahmaputra, Ganges and Meghna rivers.

Telecommunications Minister Muhammad Nasim told the parliament Tuesday night that the floods had destroyed 86,000

acres (34,400 hectares) of crops and partially affected another 164,000 acres (65,600 hectares) of farmland.

He also said some 590,000 families had been affected by the floods, which destroyed 73,000 houses and damaged 161,000.

A total of 612 kilometres (382 miles) of roads had also washed away and another 3,474 kilometres (2171) were damaged by the floods, caused by monsoon rains and run-off from hills in neighbouring India, he said, adding 452

bridges and culverts were also damaged.

The FFWD said the flood situation in central Manikganj, Dhaka and Munshiganj districts, and southern Rajbari, Faridpur, Madarpur and Shariatpur districts had worsened.

However, in northern Bogra, Jamalpur, Tangail and Sherpur, and northwestern Sirajganj and Pabna districts the situation continued to improve, it added.

Bangladesh is prone to annual flooding during the monsoon season.

## Christopher to visit China in November

JAKARTA (AFP) — China and the United States, seeking to steady their sometimes shaky relations, announced a series of high-level contacts Wednesday including a visit to Beijing by Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

"Both sides agreed that at my request, the secretary of state, Mr. Christopher, would pay a visit to China in late November," Qian told reporters after meeting Mr. Christopher here.

He said Chinese Defence Minister Chi Haotian would also, at the invitation of U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry, visit the United States within this year.

Sino-U.S. joint commissions on science and technology, commerce and trade and a joint economic commission would meet in the United States this year, while at the invitation of National Security Adviser

Anthony Lake, his Chinese counterpart, Liu Huaqiu, would also visit.

U.S. officials confirmed the visits and added that John Holm, director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, would travel to China as well before the end of the year.

Mr. Qian, who said the main stumbling block in Sino-U.S. relations was the Taiwan issue, and Mr. Christopher met here on the sidelines of the annual talks between the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the group's external dialogue partners.

It was the 14th meeting between the two men, who discussed bilateral relations and exchanged views on regional and international issues.

"The recent months have seen some positive progress in the China-U.S. relationship," Mr. Qian said at a joint news conference with

Mr. Christopher ahead of their meeting.

He cited a bilateral agreement on intellectual property rights which averted threatened U.S. sanctions against China and President Bill Clinton's decision to renew China's most favoured nation status.

"This shows that despite the disagreements and contradictions of this kind or that between China and the U.S., our common interests outweigh our differences," Mr. Qian said.

Bilateral ties had deteriorated earlier this year after the Chinese military conducted missile-firing exercises in the Taiwan Strait ahead of Taipei's presidential elections, apparently to intimidate the island's rulers.

Washington sent two carrier groups through the Taiwan Strait in response.

Beijing and Taipei split after the Communist victory

in the mainland in 1949. China considers Taiwan a renegade province.

"The question of Taiwan remains our main concern," Mr. Qian said, calling it the "core issue" in Sino-U.S. relations despite the recent improvement in relations.

Mr. Christopher expressed Washington's desire for a peaceful resolution of the dispute.

## U.N. spokeswoman brushes aside allegations regarding Ghali's reelection

NEW YORK (Agencies) — The spokeswoman for the United Nations Secretary General Butros Ghali, Sylvia Foa, said the allegations that U.N. resources are being used to bolster Dr. Ghali's chances for reelection are unjustified.

When asked at Tuesday's press briefing about the reported United States "investigation" into the use of the U.N. resources, Ms Foa replied: "You know, all of us, including the secretary-general, have been extremely preoccupied over the last few days, especially yesterday and today, with a multitude of crises, not the least of which is the deteriorating situation in Burundi. We have no time for these kinds of unsubstantiated allegations. Although it is pretty sickening to all of us that these kinds of allegations are being made against staff who are working under extremely stressful circumstances to make this organisation work."

"We doubt very much that these ridiculous charges or the disgraceful campaign of disinformation that is being waged against

the United Nations and against the staff of the United Nations could possibly have been approved in advance by the government concerned," she continued. "Such bully tactics, these threats and blatant attempts at intimidating United Nations staff, really smack of the McCarthy era. There's an odor there of something I remember when I was a kid in the 1950s."

"The secretary-general has made it clear to all of us that we should get on with our work and leave the question of the reelection to the member states. This is a job for the member states to deal with. It's not our job. And he has told us 'keep working; just keep doing what you should be doing.' However, I reminded the Secretary-General that it is the job of every single United Nations staff member to counter disinformation, no matter what the source of that disinformation. We're here to defend this institution, called the United Nations, from unwarranted, unjustified and unsubstantiated attacks," she said.

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## Society on the Move Timing is often 'everything'

While the bread subsidy clamour rages on, no one should jump to conclusions if they see our parliamentarians being chauffeured about town. If there are any MPs riding in the lap of luxury, rest assured that this is not an example of your tax dinars at work. The hoopla raised by Al Dustour Arabic Daily and picked up by The Star over a JD 150 driver's allowance for senators and deputies is simply that, according to Under Secretary of Parliament Hakam Kheir, a request by parliament to include a monthly personal driver allowance among new regulations granting financial and administrative independence to Parliament was in fact rejected by the Cabinet. And thus the Royal Decree issued approving the new regulations makes no mention of this extra perk. When Al Dustour said it had documents to support its claim that parliamentarians were granted this rather special transportation allowance, the paper was referring to the document bearing the deputies' request, not the Cabinet-approved document.

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**OF LABELS & TITLES:** There is a bit of administrative confusion over at the Ministry of Tourism, but Minister Saleh Irsheidat expects it to be cleared up quite soon. The issue centres around the appropriate job description to be assigned to Ghaleb Masarweh, who was employed as the ministry's Madaba district director for tourism for more than a decade. About one year ago, he was transferred from the Madaba post to take charge of tourism information at Queen Alia International Airport. But the Civil Service Commission stepped in with its list of job descriptions, vacancies and requirements and qualifications and decided that Mr. Masarweh's formal education experience did not meet the called-for level. The issue peaked when a misunderstanding arose in which it was thought that Mr. Masarweh had been appointed as an adviser to the ministry. According to Dr. Irsheidat, Mr. Masarweh is not an adviser but has been working "very hard" on the organisation of the Jerash Festival along with Secretary General of the Ministry Akram Masarweh, who is also Jerash Festival Director and just happens to be Ghaleb's brother. Dr. Irsheidat said that some ministry personnel were distracted because part of Mr. Masarweh's work at the ministry involved reporting to, not advising, the minister on the progress of activities. Meanwhile the commission is expected to come to a decision on just what category of employment Mr. Masarweh's grade and education qualify him for. With tourism booming in the town made most famous for housing the ancient mosaic map of the Levant, one would expect that Mr. Masarweh's many years of experience there would account for something.

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**FOR OLD TIMES SAKE:** Label Jordanian-Iraqi relations what you will, but Jordanians from centres of power turned

out in large numbers to congratulate Iraqi Ambassador Nouri Ismail Al Waiss on Iraq's 17th of July Revolution Day. Passing through the receiving line among the many were former Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and his wife Jamie, former Premier and Deputy Taher Al Masri, House Speaker Saad Hayel Srou, former Deputy Prime Minister Suleiman Arar and retired Field Marshal Fehi Abul Taleb. One guest described the event saying: "Practically all of Jordan was there... the atmosphere was so friendly, just like old times."

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**WHICH CIAO IS IT?** Meanwhile over in Madaba, the students of the Madaba Mosaics School, which just completed its fourth year of operations, will be remembering old times when they send off their much appreciated project manager Claudio Cimino with a reception tonight at the Friends of Archaeology. Dr. Cimino has eight years of experience in Jordan in setting up institutions to train young, talented Jordanians in handicrafts and arts, many of which were resurrected under his skilful guidance. His first four years he spent establishing the Sali Handicrafts Centre of Noor Al Hussein Foundation. Then he was contracted to establish the mosaics school. The 41-year-old architect and restoration expert probably would have liked to continue for another two years as the school's project manager, but the powers that be somewhere in the Jordanian-Italian technical cooperation corridors see things differently. The trainers at the school are said to be so dismayed that Dr. Cimino will not be returning to oversee the start of a new year come September that they are contemplating resigning. They felt strongly enough to write their grievances down in a 12-point letter to the Director of Antiquities Ali Bisheh through the office of the school's acting director. Their primary concern appears to be maintaining continuity in the school, and that, they cannot seem to picture without Dr. Cimino. If Dr. Cimino does indeed leave Jordan, he will head back to Rome.

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**MORE ON WEST BANK COMMUTERS:** Contrary to a recent report, premier poet Mahmoud Darwish is not planning on relocating to Ramallah and resuming the publication of Al Karmel magazine. What he does plan to do is commute between Ramallah and Amman. Dreams of resettling only point to Galilee where Mr. Darwish's mother, brothers and extended family live. That, he will not do until he "regains his right to return to his homeland." Meanwhile, Mr. Darwish has for a long time been associated with the Ramallah-based Al Ayam newspaper and there is a possibility that he may assume the post of the paper's chairman of the board. Sources close to the paper discount talk that the paper has anti-Arafat tendencies and add that Mr. Darwish would never have anything to do with the paper if it had.

**EARTH TO SPACE:** Another acclaimed Arab, this one a scientist, has just won one more prestigious award. Farouk El Baz, once scientific adviser to His Majesty King Hussein and the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, has won the American Society of Petroleum Geologists' Michel T. Halboubay Human Needs Award for 1996 for "his outstanding leadership in the quest for knowledge on Earth and in space in the search for natural resources in arid lands and in the education of children and adults throughout the world."



Dr. El Baz teaches at Boston University. He is the founder of the university's Centre for Space Research which he has run for the last 10 years. He is considered a leading expert in the study of images of space and methods of remote-distance analysis of the earth's environment and natural resources including water and petroleum. He is also a founding member of the Third World Academy of Sciences. Dr. El Baz headed an academic committee which studied effects of the Gulf War on the environment. He lives with his wife and four daughters in Concord, Massachusetts. Should he be passing this way he could be useful in the planned surveys for natural gas reserves.

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**FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE:** If the prospects for tourist droves from the Russian Federation bear fruit, Russian tour agents could be the proud recipients of the Royal Jordanian awards for top tour agents. Hosting, for the first time, a group of 18 representatives of Russia's largest tour and travel agencies, Royal Jordanian and Aeroflot put together a quick spin to introduce these travel industry promoters to Jordan's most marketable sites. Here for only two days, the travel agents arrived Sunday, were treated to an Arabic dinner at Lilal Al Sab'a (Seven Hills) Restaurant that night and a trip to Petra the next day. They left for the West Bank on Tuesday. According to Habib Nunu, RJ director of pricing and commercial agreements, another similar group from Russia is expected to follow. The second batch of representatives, he said, will be more interested in religious tourism. RJ and Aeroflot, which both operate a weekly flight between Amman and Moscow, may yet add on flights should Jordan and its neighbours prove a lucrative venue. While many Russians travel to Mediterranean and Gulf countries on a more commercial basis, the attraction in Jordan is expected to be in favour of religious and therapeutic tourism, when looking at the healing powers of the Dead Sea and mysteries of Lot's Cave.

**A LOAN WITH INTEREST:** Those of you headed to Washington D.C. after July 27 and get a sudden urge for antiquities from home, will have until April 6 to stop in at the Smithsonian Institution's Arthur M. Sackler Gallery to view an exhibition entitled: "Preserving Ancient Statues from Jordan." A Worldnet Dialogue session on the exhibition will be held at the U.S. Embassy's auditorium on July 31 at which Amman participants will ask questions of a panel in Washington. Their questions will be answered by Ann Gunter, curator of the exhibition, and Carol Grissom, the chief objects conservator who worked on these pieces. Amman participants are Ghazi Bisheh, director of the Department of Antiquities, Zeidan Kafaji, director of the Institute of Archaeology at Yarmouk University, Mohammad Najjar, director of Cultural and Environmental Resources Management at the Ministry of Tourism, and Gary Rollefson, currently working on Ain Ghazal excavations. Two human figures, three double-headed busts and three faces modelled on human skulls, all made of lime plaster and nearly life-size, will be displayed in the Washington exhibition. These ancient figures from 6500-7000 B.C. were discovered in 1985 at the prehistoric site of 'Ain Ghazal. In 1986 the Smithsonian's Conservation Analytical Laboratory (CAL) began uncovering, studying and preserving the statues, which are on loan from the Department of Antiquities. The statues were accidentally discovered when a bulldozer digging for road construction cut through part of the site of 'Ain Ghazal, exposing the cache of statues.

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**IT'S ONLY A FIRST:** Let's end on a genuine upbeat note. Although Tawjihi passing scores were nothing to toot your horn about, the first time passing of two special Jordanian students certainly is. The scholastic achievements of Awad Mustafa Rahal and Muna Sabih Abu Sneh stand out among the rest because Awad and Muna are deaf. The two are part of a group of 11 deaf students who sat for the General Certificate Examination. They took the very same exams as their hearing classmates. Awad and Muna come from similar backgrounds. Awad is one of 16 children born to parents who are cousins. Four of his family members are deaf. His father is a truck driver who earns JD 120 a month. His mother takes care of the children. Muna comes from a family of 11. Her parents are also cousins, and she has two deaf brothers and a deaf sister. Her father is a baker, and her sister, Manal, studied how to teach deaf children for the sake of her sisters and brothers. Awad and Muna's teacher and supervisor of the Raja School, which is affiliated with the Society for the Deaf, Layla Iklim says these two students have set a precedent for others. Awad wants to be an accountant, and Muna is considering engineering. To them we say, carry on!

Jennifer Haggan

### BOOK REVIEW

#### Of towns and people

**Making People-Friendly Towns**  
By Francis Tibbalds  
Longman Group U.K. Ltd.

TIBBALDS, an architect and town planner with over thirty years of experience in both the private and the public sectors, explores the way towns and cities look and feel to all their users.

In his book, Tibbalds emphasises the importance of traditional towns and buildings, asserting the need to build durable and adaptable new buildings and towns. According to the book certain elements should be blended together in order to achieve the idea of people-friendly towns.

Without the memories that reside in the monuments and landmarks a city can no longer be people-friendly, he says.

Without pedestrian-safe places and spaces and without urban fun towns and cities lose a great deal of their spirit.

Tall buildings, he says, have always been symbols of religious, governmental or financial power and they give an identity to the city.

A countryside should start immediately with no sprawling suburbia.

A "public realm" is everything that can be seen and enjoyed by the public: Greenery is a very important visual element, a well-planted balcony and a tree-lined boulevard are refined aesthetic elements that enhance the public realm.

A good environment, according to Tibbalds, is not only created by professionals but is one maintained by the care of the people by modest individual contributions. An attractive window dressing, a decorative pavement, an enjoyable potted plant, a maintained colour theme in painting and decorating the exterior of a building, an attractive facade that attracts a passer-by, a roof scape designed as a fifth elevation accommodating terraces, patios and gardens, are all elements that add to the visual environment of a city.

It is difficult to legislate for good design, Tibbalds maintains, but it is worth trying. Greater commitments are needed, the gaps between architects, town planners, landscape architects, engineers, surveyors, estate managers and so on should be eliminated, he urges. Original modern designs are very effective, planning authorities need to draw up local urban design guidelines to be used sensibly as a checklist for the bulk, height, density, arcades etc. in accordance with local circumstances, taking into consideration the topography, heritage, climate, history and culture, the existing context and local colours and materials.

What is really needed is joint training and inter-disciplinary projects to design the future and with the past in mind.

What is most important is the way all the elements of the urban environment fit together to form a coherent whole in order to create more people-friendly towns and cities.

Mary Stella Bagaeen

## Santas meet to dream of virtual white Christmas

By Christopher Follett  
Reuter

COPENHAGEN — Cyber-space beckons and the world's Santas want to be ready.

With their cyber-elf helpers and virtual reindeer, they will spread the yuletide message to children of the future along fibre optic cables and through computer screens.

The move into cyberspace is top of the agenda at this week's 33rd World Santa Claus Congress, where more than 120 Santas from 22 countries will meet at an amusement park near Copenhagen to discuss the future.

"The days when children believed in only one Father Christmas are passing as is the belief that he climbs down the chimney, has flying reindeer and manages to visit all the world's 700 million children in one night," Ib Groth Rasmussen, circus clown and chairman of the congress, told Reuters.

"Times have changed and children are no longer naive. One of the perennial questions in a child's soul is whether to believe in Santa, but in the cyberspace age children with sharp minds are going to quickly see through standard Santa Claus mythology as being pure utopia," Mr. Rasmussen said.

"With computers high on children's wish lists and the very young now able to take the Internet, we must use modern technology to deliver the pure and simple truth that not one solitary Santa but a veritable army of Santas and elf helpers take care of the many demanding tasks associated with Christmas, not least delivering presents," Mr. Rasmussen added.

The World Santa Cong-

ress is contactable by E-Mail via WorldSantaconference and the Danish telecommunications group Tele Danmark A/S will be at the meeting, with its own special cyber-elf advising delegates on how to communicate their yuletide message electronically, he said.

"Children must know about the different bringers of gifts from the whole world as no single country has a monopoly on Santa. We must learn to make use of modern computerised information technology to educate the young about all Santas," he said.

As if to emphasise the diversity and ubiquity of the figure most closely associated with Christmas, the Congress is being attended by Santas from all parts of the world.

These include Bapo Natale from Italy, France's Pere Noel, Santa Claus from the United States, Father Christmas from Britain, Australia, Malaysia, Sinterklaas and Zwarte Piet from the Netherlands, seven Swedish elves, Belgium's St. Nicolaus, three holy kings from Spain and 14 red-robed, white-bearded Santas from Norway.

The Danish hosts' ecumenical views on Santa are new as is the sudden spirit of reconciliation, coming after years of arguing among Nordic countries over which can lay claim to be the home of Father Christmas.

Greenland, an Arctic province of Denmark, long insisted it was Santa's home and its Santa Post Office answers 125,000 letters a year from children all over the world who write to Father Christmas, C/o North Pole, Greenland.

Finnish Lapland, Sweden, Norway and Iceland also claim to be the real land

of Santa and tempers have run high on the issue among normally peaceful Nordic people.

The Finns, who have a commercially successful Arctic circle centre for their Santa or "Joulupukki" near the city of Rovaniemi, make the biggest pitch for the Father Christmas tourist trade.

It was the Finnish Santa's

refusal to recognise Greenland's claims which led to his excommunication from the World Santa Congress in Copenhagen four years ago, but the matter has been settled in a new spirit of tolerance and cooperation and a Finnish delegate will attend the Santa Congress this year.

"Nobody has sole rights to Santa, neither Denmark, Finland nor Norway, the

Nordic countries share parallel Santa traditions. Our dispute with Finland is over and their Santa will be coming after four years in the cold," Mr. Rasmussen said.

"We must stop our squabbling and unite in the cyberspace era."

The Congress, from July 22-28, has a full programme requiring the Santas to stage frequent yule shows, sample Danish Christmas ale and

eat their way through heavy traditional Christmas dinners consisting of roast pork, crackling and red cabbage at the height of the Danish summer.

Also scheduled is a Grand Father Christmas Parade through the centre of Copenhagen by platoons of Santas and elves and the fixture culminates in the crowning of the Santa of the Year.



A group of Santas parade in the water with their helpers off the coast of Denmark. Copenhagen is hosting the 33rd World Santa Claus Congress from July 22-28 with more than 120 Santas from 22 countries are meeting at an amusement park to discuss the future (Reuter photo)



# Can't have your cake

By Jean-Claude Elias

"You can't have your cake and eat it too." It's amazing how well this expression applies to the world of personal computing. Hardware manufacturers and software designers try hard to convince us that using a PC is the most immediate, easiest thing in the world. Well it isn't. Those who promote this idea have only one idea in mind — to increase their sales and beat the competition.

One has to admit that a PC is a beast that is not that difficult to tame and that modern machines are infinitely friendlier to operate (more affordable anyway) than the monster computers that were designed just after World War II. However, presenting it as a system that one would just plug in a power outlet and then enjoy like a TV set is a gross distortion of the truth.

People buy personal computers for different reasons. Some need a PC at home to play electronic games, type simple letters and become familiar with the technology, generally speaking. Others acquire the machine for their office, expecting better management and increased productivity in the shortest possible time. There is a world between these two extreme examples.

Whatever their background, if both are first time users, they will have one way or another to learn the system. Mainly, they have to learn how to operate the programmes. These can be roughly divided into two groups: The operating system (DOS, Unix, Mac System 7, Windows, ...) and the application programmes (Word, Excel, PageMaker, AutoCad, ...).

The learning curve for the first type — we'll call it the "relaxed" home user — could be totally different from the second one — the "stressed" office type. The first one can follow any method he or she wishes. There is no rush, no emergency and nobody is monitoring the productivity. He can play around with the computer, learn one trick per day or per week, make mistakes, abuse the trial-and-error procedure and even erase the whole hard disk, no one will penalise or criticise him for that. He's got all the time in the world. Sooner or later, he'll know his system well.

The "stressed" office type cannot afford to follow the above routine. It's too much of a luxury for a business. Careful planning must be done here. Priorities must be established: What is the most important programme that the company needs? How much time and money can be spent on training and who are the employees who will be receiving it? This phase of the company's computerisation



is more important than the purchase of the hardware itself. Some readers will probably find the above too obvious and will smile at the simplicity of the story. This is because they can't imagine how many people or companies who are in fact in the "stressed" category apply the learning method of the first "relaxed" one, and the amount of headache and problems that follow.

Whether in order to save money, to save time or simply because of mismanagement, numerous companies acquire powerful machines and software, only to ruin the whole operation by refusing to spend a few dinars more on training or to give some time to the computer operators to learn their way around. They install the PCs and expect their employees to do wonders with them, almost overnight.

Not only they don't obtain the results they want but often this unbelievable approach leads to frustration, to crisis situations and to precious time lost. Decision-makers and managers have only two ways to deal with new computer installations or with employees who are new to computers, which is the same thing, practically speaking. The first and best method, as I said above, is to make provision for carefully planned training sessions and wait till they are done before asking their staff to produce results. The second would consist of giving enough time to the computer operators to familiarise themselves with the systems, alone and at their own pace and not to ask them for any important or urgent work before such a stage is reached.

The danger of the second approach is plain to see — when are the employees going to tell their boss "I'm ready now, I know everything about the PC, give me work...?"

Whatever the decision, it remains certain that avoiding formal training and demanding quick results in an unrealistic method can only lead to more problems than it may solve. It's either or. "Can't have your cake..."

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

### WHAT'S WRONG

IN each of the above three illustrations there is something that is obviously wrong.

Can you see, at a glance, what it is?



\*\*\*\*

### LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

\*\* What a blessing it is!

Ya laha min ne'ma!

\*\*\*

\*\* This work does you credit.

Hathal amal mafkharaton laka.

\* LAWYER: "Is that all? I hope you have told me everything."

CLIENT (a thief): "Except where I hid the money. I want that for myself."

\*\* Stay the way you are.

Istamir ala halika.

\*\*\*\*

\*\* I am not in touch with anyone.

Lastu ala silaten be'ayye ahad.

### PUZZLES

\*\* What are you up to?

Feema anta mash'ghul?

### "MAGIC SQUARE"

\*\* It's no good blinking the fact.

Laysa minal khair at-taghadil anil haqiqah.

FILL the thirteen empty squares so that vertically, horizontally and diagonally from corner to corner, all lines add up to 65.

The missing numbers are: 1, 4, 5, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 21, 22 and 25.

### JOKES

\* "TEACHER: "If there were ten goats in a field and six jumped off the fence, how many would there be left?"

PUPIL: "None."

TEACHER: "Why? Yes, there would be!"

PUPIL: "No, madam. There wouldn't!"

"You may know arithmetic, but you don't know goats!"



\* A BARBER came to shave Joha's head. Whenever he shaved part of it, he cut it and used a piece of cotton on it. Having shaved half of the head, Joha said, "Stop, brother."

### BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

- (1) On what occasion does a judge don a black cap?
- (2) Which leg does a cow use first when getting up?
- (3) What is a heifer?
- (4) What do we say when we mean a number of:

- a- partridges
- b- geese
- c- wild ducks
- d- cows
- e- sheep
- f- fish
- g- puppies
- h- bees

## True colours

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

MANY ARE the things that we had thought we already knew and learnt to take for granted to be true and unquestionable. For example, when so many people, all from Arab countries get together, young people that is, the things that bring them together also pull them apart. This is to say that although they speak the same language, the mother tongue which is Arabic, it is much more easier to communicate in either French or Spanish. This should not be at all surprising given that we already know that there are certain dialects in Arabic which are spoken in some areas but not in others. What is important here is that we are a generation that has been brought up to believe that one of the things that unites the Arab World is the language which is in itself true enough. But this uniting language is not the same one spoken by the younger generations. And this much has to be accepted.

Strange also are the things that some people end up doing when they try to market something, a place, or even a country. The image promoted is, after all, the most important part of any promotional campaign. Take for example the numerous television programmes that a country makes and in which it tries to manifest the aspects of the daily lives of its citizens.

Now we in Jordan, for example, are so preoccupied with our image in the West and the rest of the world. What sort of programmes (or soap operas if you like the term) are we making? Are they representative of who we are today?



And what is it that they tell others about us? Are they telling the truth?

Well, there is something not quite right with this picture. For one thing, I was shocked to hear from a fellow Arab citizen, one close by, that he thought Jordanians lived in tents and that we all were horse-riders and gun carrying bedouins. His reasoning? That is all he sees in the programmes made in Jordan.

At this level, this is quite horrifying. It would have been far more acceptable if such a statement had come from someone from the West for example because it is against such trends that we normally struggle. But to have something like this come from an Arab citizen is quite unacceptable. And in this instance, blame has to be assigned. But it is not for me to do that because if we as a society cannot accept, or bare, the responsibility for our actions, then we deserve to be condemned to be what others think we are.

## JTV CHANNEL TWO WEEKLY PREVIEW

### Thursday, July 25, 1996

3:15 Opening  
3:20 Olympic Games  
7:00 News In French  
7:15 Olympic Games  
10:00 News In English  
10:20 Olympic Games  
05:25 Closing

7:10 Olympic Games  
10:00 News In English  
10:20 Olympic Games  
06:10 Closing

### Friday, July 26, 1996

2:45 Opening  
2:50 Olympic Games  
7:00 News In French  
7:15 Olympic Games  
10:00 News In English  
10:20 Olympic Games  
06:00 Closing

3:00 Holy Koran  
3:03 Bonkers  
3:30 Here's Lucy  
3:55 Olympic Games  
7:00 News In French  
7:15 Olympic Games  
10:00 News In English  
10:20 Olympic Games  
06:35 Closing

### Saturday, July 27, 1996

3:00 Holy Koran  
3:05 Moonin  
3:30 Here's Lucy  
3:55 Varieties  
4:10 Olympic Games  
7:00 News In French  
7:15 Olympic Games  
10:00 News In English  
10:20 Olympic Games  
07:00 Closing

2:00 Holy Koran  
2:03 Captain Planet  
2:26 Here's Lucy  
2:50 Olympic Games  
7:00 News In French  
7:10 Olympic Games  
10:00 News In English  
10:20 Olympic Games  
06:10 Closing

### Sunday, July 28, 1996

3:00 Holy Koran  
3:03 The Mask  
3:30 Here's Lucy  
3:55 Olympic Games  
7:00 News In French

3:00 Holy Koran  
3:03 Flintstones  
3:26 Here's Lucy  
3:50 Olympic Games  
7:00 News In French  
7:10 Olympic Games  
10:00 News In English  
10:20 Olympic Games  
06:15 Closing

### Tuesday, July 30, 1996

### Wednesday, July 31, 1996

## Gone With The Wind is still biggest blockbuster

By Steve James  
Reuters

LOS ANGELES — The phenomenal box office success of *Independence Day* has Hollywood debating whether this latest hit can eclipse *Gone With The Wind* as the most popular movie of all time.

The Alien adventure film, dubbed *ID4* by fans, grossed more than \$104.3 million in box office sales in six days, making it the fastest film to top \$100 million — widely regarded as the level in which a film becomes a blockbuster.

The previous record was nine days for *Jurassic Park*.

Yet, with tickets costing as much as \$8.50 in New York or Los Angeles, compared to 45 cents in Hollywood's heyday of the 1940s and modern-day movies opening on 2,000 screens these days, such monster receipts are hardly surprising.

Purists argue the only true way to judge blockbusters is to compare actual tickets sold, or at least translate the box office receipts of yesterday's films into 1996 dollars.

By that reckoning, *Gone With The Wind* would be

the uncontested winner, says John Krier, president of Exhibitor Relations, which tracks box office figures.

The 1939 civil war saga is estimated to have grossed \$859 million in 1996 dollars, with *Star Wars* second at \$628 million and the 1956 Biblical epic *The Ten Commandments* third with \$602 million, Mr. Krier said.

They easily eclipse *ET*, the all-time box-office champ with a \$399.8 million gross, as well as *Jurassic Park* (\$356.8 million) and *Forrest Gump* (\$329.7 million).

"*Gone With The Wind* has the advantage of age. I doubt *Independence Day* will ever equal it," Mr. Krier said. "I don't think it has the same good basic story and there's no romance."

"Some pictures just have their own niche — *Gone With The Wind*, *The Sound of Music*," said Mr. Krier. Tom Borys, who is also in the business of monitoring box office sales, disagrees.

"The fact of the matter is that *Independence Day* was seen by more people in a shorter amount of time than any other film in history,"

"*Gone With The Wind* didn't open on 2,000 screens and there are other different factors. The life span of films has changed," said Borys, senior vice president of Entertainment Data Inc. (EDI), which supplies studios with box-office figures.

EDI monitors 24,000 screens daily, representing around 65 per cent of all the screens in Canada and the United States and 80 per cent of the total box office receipts.

Mr. Borys explained the emphasis on reporting actual dollar figures rather than ticket sales is essential to the movie business.

"Historically, this is the way the industry was set up to do standard reporting. Our service was first designed to help exhibitors and distributors when they renegotiate every Monday," he said.

The theatre chains and distribution companies look only at how much a film brings in when they decide each week which movies will play and which will not.

"They look at the films' grosses and decide what will stay on. Deals are driven by the box office, deals

are not made on admissions. Deals are made on the dollar," Mr. Borys said.

In fact, he noted, total ticket sales for movie theatres have stood at around one billion per year since 1962.

"Admissions in the broadest sense have been pretty darn stable since 1962, that's when TV penetration maxed out," Mr. Borys said. "In the 1940s there were more than four billion admissions per year, but habits have changed."

Mr. Krier agreed that movie-going was different a half-century after *Gone With The Wind*.

"In 1940-45, 75 million people went to the movies each week. But the reason was there was nowhere else to go there was gas rationing and they couldn't drive far," he said.

"Also, there were lots of pictures, they changed several times a week and there were screenings around the clock."

But ultimately, it is the comparing apples and oranges, he said, and boils down to personal favourites.

## Finns

By Sara Hemen

Reuters

HEINOLA, Finland  
Street pouring with  
sunny umbrella in h  
and suddenly s  
faint Korvisto, sweep  
from the pavement.

No one takes  
They're all doing the s  
thine and they've come  
out. Perhaps the Fin  
dancing in the road in p  
and rubber boots are ju  
romance and desire to c

This is the National  
Tango — an annual fiv  
which draws some 100,  
uncommunicative Fin  
western town to dance.

clap, cheer, fall over fr  
time, or maybe even to f  
"We are very shy  
Finland," said master-te

Blomqvist. "In tango, e  
boy tells everything he  
and the girl knows imm

oe likes the man."  
The Finns may appear  
chilly, but many have a

deep affinity with the  
South American tang  
show clearly in the dan  
dancing faces. One millio

one in five — will watc  
on television.

If you could pick just o  
tastic defining Finland  
identity, it would have to b  
tango. And as a  
society, Finnish tango is i

ferent.  
"Men. Hold her tighte  
he barks at an improv  
class at the town school.  
knee... Unngh."

A gentle pelvic thrust  
than many words.  
Simpler than the Argem

nal (which Blomqv  
tango is the classic  
trot. Danced well it has b  
a waltz, but with double d

Outside the rain is pel  
on row upon row of  
crammed onto every fr  
den grass and mud, wh  
thousands of dancers pl  
Revived in the 1980s w  
at risk of extinction af  
sion of disco music, Finla



## Jerash — where art and culture meet architecture and history

By Mahmoud I. Mufti

### RENDEZVOUS WITH ART

"THE BRINGING together of peoples of diverse origins, in an atmosphere of leisurely harmony and discovery, has rarely been as effective and forthcoming, as when such peoples have congregated over the magic of the lute, the proverb of a sage, or the ballad of a poet. For it is verily then, and like no other instance — such as that of a colloquium — that all phonetic languages and barriers pertaining thereto, are cast aside, and one amalgam language adopted; the language emanating from those gathered for immersion in an activity or event that captures their hearts in unison, and to similar extent. No sense of duty looms at such a gathering: poetic pleasure becomes the order of the moment" (An anonymous philosopher).

The allure of the ancient Graeco-Roman outpost city of Gerasa — now modern Jerash — is second only to ancient Rome itself, of which much has been observed and written. Among the more enduring remarks are: "Rome was not built in a day" (Anonymus); "All roads lead to Rome ..." (La Fontaine); "The grandeur that was Rome" (Poe); "If you are at Rome, live in the Roman style ..." (St. Ambrose). It is no coincidence that Jerash should be the natural convergence site for a three-week-long international annual festival: the Jerash Festival for Culture and Arts. This astonishingly well-preserved Graeco-Roman provincial city, dominating the hills of Gilead, has a remarkable history that spanned Neolithic, Greek, Roman, Byzantine, and Omayyad times (among others) and involved personalities like the conquering Roman Emperor Pompey (63 BC) and the visiting Emperor Hadrian (129 AD).

Jerash was not only the leading society that was part of a dynamic group of cities collectively known as the Decapolis, but belonged to a broader region that was itself the crossroads of many cultures and civilizations over many centuries. "Many of history's most creative and remarkable cultures — particularly during the Biblical, Classical, Medieval Islamic and Renaissance periods — interacted with one another across the Mediterranean Basin that bound them together in symbiotic growth, enlightenment and respect. They bequeathed to us an enduring legacy of arts, crafts, architecture, trading patterns, communication routes, shared values and material progress ..."

The ancient land of Jordan preserves a virtually unbroken record of the evolution of human art, culture and technology in the Middle East during the last 12,000 years. Ever since the dawn of human civilisation, the land of Jordan has been both a strategic frontier region and a pivotal crossroads amidst the great cultures of the ancient world, such as Egypt, Assyria, Mesopotamia, Greece, Rome, Byzantium and the Realm of Islam. As a result of this historical pattern, Jordanian culture today is a cumulative repository of successive human traditions, practices and beliefs that must be measured in millennia." (Her Majesty Queen Noor Al-Hussein: Foreword to the book "Treasures From An Ancient Land: The Art of Jordan," edited by Piotr Bienkowski, Alan Sutton Publishing Ltd., U.K. 1991).

By the time Her Majesty uttered these words in 1991, she had already inaugurated 10 cultural festivals at Jerash, embodying the very same spirit of cultural exchange and artistic development mentioned. The Noor Al Hussein Foundation expounds that "Queen Noor, with a committee of volunteers supported by staff and students from Yarmouk University, launched the first Jerash Festival for Culture and Arts in 1981. Since then, the festival has become an annual cultural landmark in Jordan, attracting hundreds of artists and tens of thousands of visitors a year."

The Festival is a vibrant meeting point for Arab and international performing artists and a dynamic catalyst for the promotion of Arab and Jordanian culture and the arts. It has also cultivated a large audience for opera, modern dance,

ballet, classical music and international theatre performances. The Festival supports Jordanian performers and artists by fostering their interaction with international artists. Jordanian performers have received scholarships from visiting troupes, while others have been invited to perform abroad.

In this way, the "grandeur that was [once] Rome" echoes again in this far-away Roman outpost. Through extensive and continuing restoration and excavation work, the historic sites of the city are being preserved for future generations of not only Jordanians, but also for people worldwide with a sense of global heritage and history, whether the lone visitor who savours a quiet walk — back in time — down the 600-metre "Cardo", or Street of Columns, or the energetic festival-goer.

The diversity of the participating artists, as much this year as in the past 15 years since the Festival's inception, is a true testament to the cosmopolitan nature of the city; not only in spirit, but especially in design and architecture. The plethora of sophisticated designs, as well as the variety of the buildings and structures that used to make up typical Roman cities like Gerasa, included the city walls, a huge 90 x 80m Oval Plaza, a 600-metre Cardo, or colonnaded street, a Forum, two tetrapylons (perpendicular intersections of the Cardo), a cathedral, several churches, a Nymphaeum (an ornamental fountain), the baths (cold and hot), a hippodrome, two amphitheatres, among other crucial buildings and structures.

On the local scene, Jordanian and Palestinian artists are exhibiting varied art-work in the "Vaults of Zeus", a long, vaulted underground corridor particularly suited to serve as an art gallery. This year's participants include Her Royal Highness Princess Wijdan Ali, Dr. Khalid Khreis (president of the Jordan Plastic Arts Association), Mona Saudi (world-renowned sculptor), Rafik Al-Lahham, Abdul Ra'ouf Shamoun, Yassir Dweik, and celebrated ceramist, Mahmoud Taha.

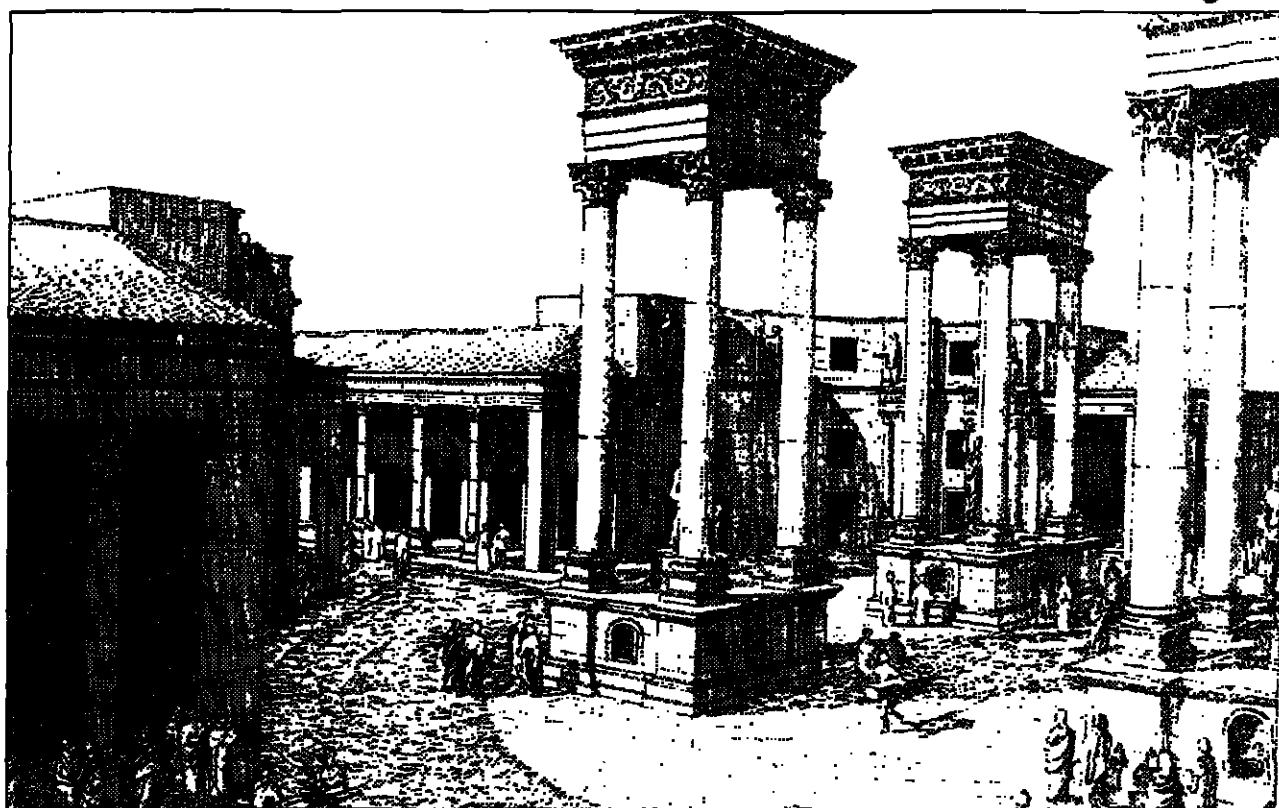
Arab countries represented at the Festival through the performing arts (dances, concerts, dramatic productions and plays) as well as poetry recitals and critique, include: Jordan, Palestine, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Morocco, and Qatar. Stealing the show on the Arab scene and registering characteristic acclaim are such prominent celebrities (and/or groups), such as Lebanese singer Majida Al-Roumi, Jordanian singer Ribbi Rabah, Lebanese singer Najwa Karam, Hussein A'hami's group for Iraqi music, Zaghoul Damour's group for musical poetry (Lebanon), and the Al-Jeel Club Circassian Folkloric Dance Troupe (Jordan).

Craftsmen and craftsmen continue the traditions laid by their ancestors and/or artistic mentors and produce "fresh art" in the form of on-the-spot blown glass, embroidery, stone carving, wood carving, brass and bronze stamping, and perhaps the most popular of all Jordanian handicrafts, carpet-weaving and sand-bottle filling.

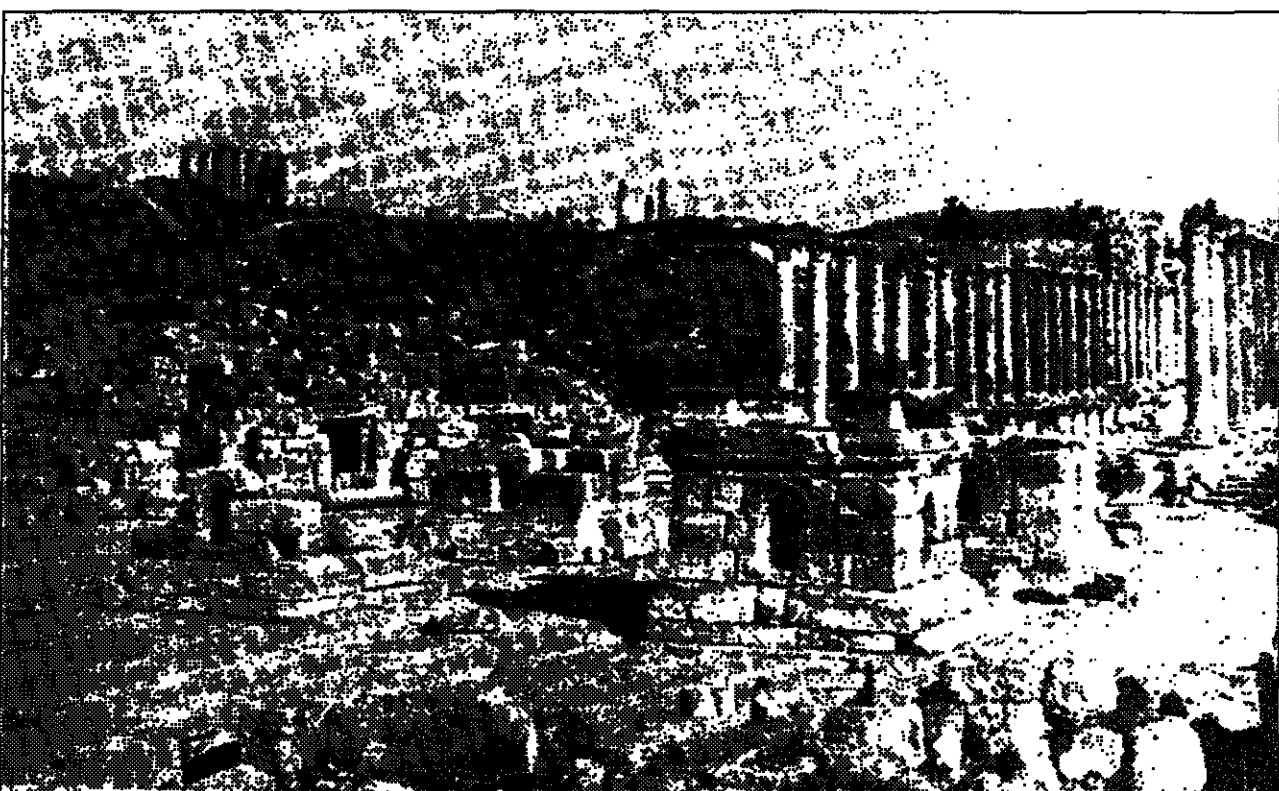
Non-Arab participating countries include the United Kingdom, the United States, France, Bulgaria, Germany, Taiwan, Poland, Spain and Portugal.

It is unfortunate that the spirit of the annual Festival cannot mean the same thing to everybody and is consequently somewhat marred every year by a segment of the population who do not identify with, or approve of, such gatherings, labelling them as too "modern" and incompatible with our culture. Yet our history shows that this region has always been rich in cultural exchange. Nor is the claim true that we have always been the recipients of so-called "imported value-systems." We have often exported values and cultural aspects of our very own.

What then is a more appropriate forum than the annual Jerash Festival for the dissemination of aspects of our pop-



A conjectural reconstruction of the circular piazza, Jerash (above). The same circular piazza today (below)



ular culture to the rest of the world, inclusive of languages, poetry, dance, handicrafts and art? And invariably, it is available of all, the actual human interaction for which Jordanians are justifiably reputed in imparting feelings of deep-rooted generosity, warmth and hospitality in the hearts of foreign visitors.

If concurrence on this issue is not attainable, human society is well capable of accommodating the two mutually-exclusive views. Diversity is the inevitable outcome. However, if criticism is delivered just for its own sake, it may plausibly recall the familiar anonymous saying: "Those engaged in the unjust criticism of others are those whose own realities are prime manifestations of envy, ignorance and hypocrisy."

## Finns say it with tango, even in the rain

By Sara Henley  
Reuter

SEINAJOKI, Finland — Church Street pouring with rain. Asko Saari, umbrella in hand, twirls, swirls and suddenly swoops over Riitta Koivisto, sweeping her up from the pavement.

No one takes much notice. They're all doing the same sort of thing and they've come a long way to do it. Perhaps the Finnish couples dancing in the road in plastic macs and rubber boots are just too full of romance and desire to care.

This is the National Festival of Tango — an annual five-day fling which draws some 100,000 usually uncommunicative Finns to this western town to dance, sing, smile, clap, cheer, fall over from time to time, or maybe even to fall in love.

"We are very shy people in Finland," said master-teacher Ake Blomqvist. "In tango, the Finnish boy tells everything he has to say, and the girl knows immediately if she likes the man."

The Finns may appear somewhat chilly, but many have a long and deep affinity with the originally South American tango, which shows clearly in the dancers' smouldering faces. One million Finns — one in five — will watch this event on television.

If you could pick just one characteristic defining Finland's complex identity, it would have to be the passion for tango. And as Blomqvist asserts, Finnish tango is rather different.

"Men. Hold her tighter, tighter," he barks at an impromptu dance class at the town school. "Yes, the knee... Unghh."

A gentle pelvic thrust says more than many words. Simpler than the Argentine original (which Blomqvist finds Rocco) Finnish tango is less militaristic than the classic ballroom trot. Danced well it has the grace of a waltz, but with double the drama.

Outside the rain is pelting down on row upon row of caravans, crammed onto every free bit of sodden grass and mud, where today's thousands of dancers plan to sleep.

Revived in the 1980s when it was at risk of extinction after the invasion of disco music, Finland's tango



Riitta Koivisto (left) and Asoko Saari practise for the National Festival of Tango Dance Competition. The annual five-day fling draws some 100,000 usually uncommunicative Finns to dance, sing, smile, clap and cheer (Reuter photo)

retains a slightly hick thirty-something label for Helsinki's would-be-cool teenagers: The Seinajoki crowd is aged 30-50.

The number of younger people at Blomqvist's dance class is surprising — though many came for a laugh.

Not that Finnish tango is devoid of humour. Months before this festival, the daily Turun Sanomat carried a lengthy column on "the left leg — the deepest essence of the tango."

"The left leg must be developed into such a sensitive fast-reacting antenna that when you step on your partner's foot, you are able to pull your foot off so quickly that your partner won't know who did it," the columnist wrote.

Although many older Finns are enthusiastic dancers at what they pronounce "tang, oh", it is tango singing that gets the festival's top billing. That section is almost entirely serious.

A tango king and queen are chosen here for their looks, voices, charm, and a rare ability to invoke a sense of longing that goes well beyond desire.

"Tango is about crying, crying more, dying, you have died, your love has died, you are living but being alone, you are crying for a warm person," elucidates journalist Ilkka Heiskari. "Tango brings you summer in winter and winter in summer."

To Anglo-Saxon ears that may seem unduly complicated. But papers like the 1993 dissertation, "The semiotics of melancholy and the Finnish tango," from Finnish academic Jukka Ammondt, would go much further.

Pressed for details, Heiskari lists a few types of Finnish tango: "There's 'Onnenmaa' — a happy country you never find, 'Punaiset Lehdet' — red leaves falling, 'pettantango' — tango of the asshole who promised you and never did."

He stops. The point of Finnish tango is that it says what a tongue-tied Finn cannot.

"Argentinian tango has a story," said Heiskari. "In Finland, tango is an emotion. It's easier to tell your partner without saying anything. The singer says it for me, I don't speak."

To judge by the festival's visitors

queuing for tickets under a leaden sky, this weekend of dance and song is a rare liberation. They smile at strangers, chat spontaneously, and laugh aloud with none of the usual Finnish introversion.

"Say only always can I be yours, say you want only me," croons a singer from under a dripping canvas.

Even alcohol plays an almost secondary role. Most people are still dancing at 11 p.m.

Despite intense rivalry from U.S. entertainers, tango — which first came to Finland after the Charleston in the 1920s and 30s — has spawned a gallery of home-grown stars whose fame can rival names from imported soap operas.

Last year's tango king Jari Sillanpaa has even drawn a youth audience. His latest hit, "Sanulinnu" (Fairy Castle), went double platinum with more than 100,000 sold, and polls show he is Finland's best-known recent tango personality.

"A BBC guy called him and asked if he could do the song in English," Heiskari said. "You never know, he could become the Julio Iglesias from Finland."

## Americans intrigued by UFO phenomenon

By Jean-Louis Santini  
Agence France Presse

ROSWELL, New Mexico — Americans are streaming into movie theatres around the country to see a new film depicting a brutal extraterrestrial invasion, further proof of the popular fascination in this country with creatures from outer space.

Even before the appearance on July 2 of the film Independence Day and its mind-numbing special effects, 48 per cent of Americans — according to a Newsweek poll — said they believed in the existence of extraterrestrial beings.

Such convictions appear in large measure to have taken root following an incident 49 years ago today here in Roswell, when an official statement from a local military base disclosed that a damaged flying saucer had been discovered on a ranch north of the city.

But the air force later modified the report, saying that what had actually been found were the remains of a weather balloon.

The case appeared closed for the next 30 years until one of the two officers who had inspected the scene began speaking to the press.

The officer, who has since died, said the unusual nature of the material found on the ground and the bizarre inscriptions on the pieces scattered over 20 hectares (49 miles) suggested that the device could not have come from Earth.

The clear implication of his remarks was that the

army had been covering up.

The local undertaker came forward to say that he had been summoned by the base the day after the discovery and asked how many children's coffins he had on hand.

According to rumour, the bodies of four humanoids measuring 1.30 metres were found near some of the largest pieces of the wreckage.

The first book on the affair — The Roswell Incident — appeared in 1980. Based on interviews with witnesses, the two authors described the landing of an extraterrestrial craft and a subsequent "conspiracy of silence" in Washington.

The book triggered a flood of publications, documentaries and television shows.

Last year a British film producer said he had paid \$100,000 to an unnamed U.S. army officer for footage showing an autopsy of one of the humanoids found at the scene.

But the film, which according to most accounts was a fake, was nonetheless aired on the fox television network in the United States, as well as on channels in France, Britain and Japan.

Also in 1995 the U.S. Defence Department sought to lay the matter to rest by releasing a comprehensive report revealing that the weather balloon was in fact a spying device that had been used to monitor Soviet nuclear tests.

But the Pentagon at the same time acknowledged that it did not know what had become of numerous documents from the Roswell Base dating from the late 1940s, according to the General Accounting Office, the congressional watchdog agency. The Roswell facility was closed in the 1960s.

The Pentagon admission fired imaginations still further and the controversy persisted.

With his city still firmly implanted in the public consciousness, Roswell Mayor Thomas Jennings last year organised a weekend festival on extraterrestrial beings, hoping to lure trade and tourists.

The second conference was held over the week end and attracted an estimated 10,000 people — labourers and office workers, businessmen, farmers and military personnel — from all walks of American life.

"We're curious because something happened at Roswell and we still don't know for sure what it was," said army Lieutenant John Hicks from El Paso, Texas, who was here with his wife.

But apart from the parades and other displays, what is most striking is the credibility conference goers are prepared to lend to accounts from speakers who claim to have been kidnapped by extraterrestrials.

All the speakers worked the crowd like television Evangelists, convinced that creatures from outer space have come to Earth to educate and save humanity.



# Friendly robots that vaporise disease

By Stannforth Webb

THE ROBOT'S orders are simple: Seek and destroy alien forces. The place: A modern hospital's operating room. Now, diseased areas of the prostate gland are being vaporised automatically by a robot surgeon, always under the guidance, of course, of its human medical masters.

The technique, being used at Guy's Hospital in London, depends upon first building up a map of the affected part of the patient's body in three dimensions (3D), from a series of two-dimensional scans.

## Precise Guidance

A similar 3D map of a part of a patient's body requiring surgery is assembled from scans at the Hammersmith Hospital in London, where sometimes doctors actually work inside a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanner so as to obtain the most precise possible guidance for delicate procedures.

The advantage of these techniques is that the surgeon is no longer working "blind". The Guy's Hospital prostate operation is used to remove parts of the gland suspected of having become cancerous, or being in a pre-cancerous condition.

A series of computerised tomography (CT) or MRI scans build up a detailed 3D map of other structures as well as the

gland in the region where the tissue has to be removed. The computer, which controls the robot, is then programmed to move down the duct in the penis to the prostate gland and to produce a powerful electric current to vaporise suspect tissue at appropriate points as it moves along.

## Saving Time

The robot is situated inside a frame that allows it to know its exact position at any moment, and to correct it so that it follows the precise path programmed into it through the body. One advantage of using the robot to perform routine prostate surgery, which is extremely common in hospitals in most countries, is that it reduces the time taken for the surgery from an average of one hour to less than 30 minutes. More important, in a surgical area in which precision is vital, the robot eliminates any possibility of human error.

The technique applied at the Hammersmith Hospital uses a similar mapping technique but for manual rather than robotic surgery. The part of the body where surgery is to be carried out is first mapped using repeated scans to build up a 3D image. When a sample of tissue has to be taken in a biopsy to check for suspected breast cancer, it is vital that the sample should be taken from exactly the correct part of the gland.

By using a 3D map of the structures beneath the skin and assembled by computer from the scans, it is possible to

"see" the structures beneath the skin on a TV screen as the surgeon's scalpel approaches them, and as it moves past them while cutting into tissue. The days of "blind" surgery are virtually over.

Surgical precision is even more vital in deep brain surgery. Because, unlike almost all other cells in the body, adult brain cells do not divide and grow to repair damage, any damage done to the brain by the surgeon is irreparable. A new computerised imaging system, known as the viewing wand, now in use at the Walton Neurological Centre in Liverpool, allows surgeons to know exactly where their instruments are within the brain by displaying them on a screen during brain surgery.

## Less Damage

The surgery is so much more precise, says Paul Eldridge, consultant neurosurgeon at the Walton centre, in a recent interview that "our patients are up and about earlier and go home earlier, because they have suffered less damage to healthy tissue in the brain."

The technique reduces the risks of brain surgery and makes it available to patients who previously would have been rejected for treatment. Another development now in use at the Radcliffe Infirmary in Oxford is allowing damage caused by brain haemorrhages to be repaired from inside without opening the skull. The technique is derived from

so-called balloon angioplasty, used routinely to clear blockages in coronary arteries. Balloon angioplasty involves the surgeon inserting a catheter — a thin, flexible tube with a tiny uninflated balloon on its end — into an artery in the groin. From there it is pushed gently up, under X-ray guidance, until the balloon reaches the blockage in the artery. Then it is inflated by remote control to reopen a passage past the blockage.

## Balloon Surgery

A similar procedure is now being extended to the brain. By again inserting a catheter into an artery in the groin and moving it slowly up under X-ray guidance through the carotid artery in the neck into the smaller blood vessels in the brain until it reaches an aneurysm, a swelling caused by stretching of a weak point in the wall of a blood vessel.

The catheter is then used to insert a tiny platinum coil into the wall of the vessel, triggering the blood clotting process, which seals off the weak point preventing bursting.

A worldwide trial of the efficacy of the platinum coil technique is now under way. More than 300 operations using it have been successfully performed in the U.K. Like the other new surgical techniques described here, it depends crucially upon modern scanning technology — LPS Features.

## 'Morning after' pill to be more accessible

By Joanne Kenen

WASHINGTON — The "morning after" birth-control pill has been around for some 20 years but only now is it likely to become widely available to American women, advocates said.

But some anti-abortion and conservative groups, who define pregnancy as starting at the moment of conception and not when the fertilised egg implants in the womb, regard the drug as a "non-surgical method of abortion."

A Food and Drug Administration (FDA) advisory panel Friday ruled that certain birth control pills can safely be used as an emergency contraceptive for 72 hours after unprotected sex. The FDA has several options now, including publishing in the federal register a formal notice about safety and efficacy.

"This will do more to avoid unwanted pregnancies and lower the number of abortions than anything in the last 30 years," Janet Benshoof, president of the Centre for Reproductive Law and Policy, said. The

centre filed the petition with the FDA.

"It's in everybody's interest to have this available," said Gloria Felt, president of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, noting that nearly half of unplanned U.S. pregnancies involve birth control failures.

The "morning after" pill has been used overseas, it has been a staple in U.S. rape crisis centres, and has been available on some college campuses and in some clinics.

But without specific sanction from the FDA, many doctors have been reluctant, for legal liability reasons, to use these drugs for a purpose not stated on the manufacturer's label.

"In this whole area of medicine, people are very skittish about off-label use," Ms. Benshoof said.

But the conservative anti-abortion Family Research Council said that if the pill is available for this purpose, many girls and women may be less likely to use contraception.

Girls and women may forgo other forms of birth

control and simply choose to consume larger dosages of the pill after sex," the council said in a statement urging the FDA not to approve the pill for this purpose.

Ms. Benshoof and other advocates of wider access say they are not recommending this as a routine method of birth control.

Since many women will endure nausea or other uncomfortable side effects, it may not be a method many women would choose to repeat with any frequency.

But the advocates regard it as invaluable for rape victims or when other contraceptives fail, for instance when a condom breaks or slips.

Ms. Benshoof likened the post-coital pill to "first aid" that people should have in their medicine cabinet.

"Just because you have iodine doesn't mean you will go around hitting your knees," she said. "And if you have a snake-bite kit, you still won't go around wanting to be bitten by a snake."

The U.S. has the highest teen pregnancy rate of any developed nation. Denying women access to a morning-after pill for the fear that a few more teenagers might have (unprotected) sex is ludicrous," said Planned Parenthood's Felt.

Drug approval petitions are usually brought to the FDA by a drugmaker but in this case, the centre filed on behalf of health and women's organisations, including the American Public Health Association and the American Medical Women's Association.

The FDA ruling applies to six of the 50 brands of birth control pills available in the United States, brands which contain certain formulas of ethinyl estradiol and norgestrel or levonorgestrel.

Depending on the strength of the pill, dosing for post-coital purposes range from two to four tablets taken within 72 hours, followed by a second dose 12 hours later.

Post-coital use of birth control pills is not the same as the controversial, so-called "abortion pill," RU-486. That drug, given along with a prostaglandin, causes a miscarriage.

## Japan may lift pill ban but scepticism remains

By Edwina Gibbs

TOKYO — The last time Yuko, a Japanese woman in her late 20s, went to the United States, she brought back a year's supply of birth control pills.

The reason she did was because oral contraceptive pills are still illegal in Japan, more than 30 years after they became commercially available in Western countries.

But Yuko may not have to go to such lengths much longer. Japanese Health Minister Naoto Kan said earlier this month the pill could be approved sometime next year.

"It's not far off. Specifically, this year is difficult but the government panel will probably reach a conclusion sometime next year and it is likely that such a conclusion will come out in favour of the pill's approval," he told reporters.

But after many years of disappointment, activists are still sceptical, believing that history has shown that the forces of bureaucratic delay are more likely to triumph.

"... Should it be believed? We've had this sort of situation before," says Kunio Kitamura, director of the Family Planning Clinic at the Japan Family Planning Association.

The Health Ministry says the delay in introduction over recent years is a product of caution. Official reasons include concerns arising from new research on possible side effects and the fear that if the pill were to catch on, condom usage would plummet and so help the spread of AIDS.

Although the government's ban is not a blanket one — some kinds of high and middle dosage pills are permitted for the treatment of menstrual disorders — the pill remains out of

reach for most Japanese women. The low dosage pill is banned altogether and information about the pill is scarce.

Instead, condoms rule the contraceptive roost in Japan. Domestic surveys show condoms are used by nearly 80 per cent of married couples. Abortions are also legal and easily available.

But critics say that Japanese women have been denied the right to choose from as many forms of contraception as possible for too long.

"There are women who want to use the pill — it's absurd that the government prevents this," says Chika Hyodo, a lecturer in health education at Shukutoku College in Tokyo.

One 25-year-old graduate student who recently had an abortion agrees.

"If the pill was available I'd use it. There are lots of Japanese girls who have trouble asking their boyfriends to use condoms and if the pill was available, they'd be using it," she said.

Controversy surrounding the pill in Japan has followed a long and repetitive pattern of hopes being raised as the government moves towards approval, then dashed as it starts to backtrack.

In the late 1960s fears that sexual morality would decline squashed early moves to legalise the pill.

More recently, in 1992, a government panel completed an assessment of data in favour of the pill but the Health Ministry decided not to approve it over worries condom usage might be abandoned, spurring the spread of AIDS.

Japan has a relatively low incidence of AIDS. Official data show around 3,500 people are estimated to have the HIV virus.

And in late 1995, expectations abounded that the pill would be final-

ly legalised around this time this year. But officials were sent scurrying back into discussion over a scare in Europe, that some brands of current 'third generation' pills may carry twice as high a risk of causing blood clots than previous types of pills.

To Japanese Family Planning experts, however, their government's reaction was just another excuse for delay.

Critics also reject the linking of AIDS and the pill.

"AIDS is AIDS, the pill is the pill. AIDS should be tackled through education. It should not be a reason to deny choice in contraception," said Shukutoku University's Hyodo.

Indeed, delay has been so long that many speculate that the government, worried about its rapidly aging population, is desperate to take any measure which would prop up the Japan's falling birthrate — a charge which the ministry denies.

But the ministry does say that part of the reason for the delay is cultural. "Japan is not like America where patients are used to making informed choices and weighing risks about the medicine they use," a ministry official said.

Activists dismiss this. "They'll use any excuse... The ministry is just looking down upon women," said Yuriko Ashino, deputy executive secretary of the Family Planning Federation of Japan.

But activists admit that lack of outcry on the part of Japanese women has meant the ministry has had an easy task of brushing off criticism.

Opinion polls regularly show that a large majority of Japanese women do not want to use the pill, with side effects being the biggest reason for wariness.

## WEEKEND CROSSWORD

PHENOMS

By William Canine

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## Features

Jordan Times, Thursday-Friday, July 25-26, 1996

# Journalists who love too much gulp fiction

By Maureen Dowd

WASHINGTON — Now we know. "Primary Colours" was not a social satire. It was a story of unrequited love, the literary consequence of a romance turned sour between a journalist and a politician.

Bill Clinton understood the plot, joking darkly at the spring Gridiron dinner that his advice for the next president would be to get Joe Klein to hate him in the beginning, so that maybe he'd love him in the end.

Mr. Klein, who has belatedly confessed to being Anonymous, fell hard for the Arkansas governor and helped put him on the

national map in '91. Still at New York Magazine then, he admired Mr. Clinton as a post-Great Society, post-Mondale, post-Dukakis Democrat, and felt the governor could contribute to the advance of the liberalism they admired.

Still infatuated after moving to Newsweek, he lauded Mr. Clinton in July '92 for "a clean, well-lighted mind, a virtuosity that seems almost bionic: there is no policy question he can't answer seamlessly."

As president, Bill Clinton proved Mr. Klein right. "There was no policy question he couldn't answer seamlessly. But Mr. Klein had been counting on the

seams, something more genuine.

Also, the Clintons did not turn out to be Kennedyesque about the press. Mr. Klein was not wined and dined at the White House.

The Clintonites showed so little respect that they leaked a memo to Esquire from the '92 campaign that described how easy it would be for the candidate to seduce the journalist. All Mr. Clinton needed to do was talk about Mr. Klein's favourite issues, like welfare, because the memo patronisingly noted, Mr. Klein already thought Bill Clinton was the last, best hope of mankind.

In May 1994, the love affair ended abruptly when Mr. Klein wrote a story called "The Politics of Promiscuity." He now found Mr. Clinton not bionic, but boorish. He had come to see the Clintons as the Tom and Daisy Buchanan of politics, a careless couple who expected others to clean up their messes. He said the president's "wanton affability leads, inevitably, to misunderstandings. It forces him to finagle, which he does brilliantly. It leads to a rhetorical promiscuity, the reckless belief that he can talk anyone into anything (or, more to the point, that he can talk his way out of

anything), that he can seduce and abandon, at will and without consequence."

Meanwhile, Mr. Klein had decided to turn the cleft into a roman. In the light of what he now thought about Mr. Clinton, he redrew, in the guise of fiction, his flattering portrait from '92. If Bill Clinton was clean and well-lit, Jack Stanton was a liar and a phony.

Says George Stephanopoulos, the Clinton aide who is the model for the narrator in "Primary Colours": "He was projecting his dishonesty onto the Clintons. When he talks about their problems with credibility, trust and veracity, he's accusing them of

something he did." (Stephanopoulos' revenge for Klein's revenge).

It is true that "Primary Colours" is fiction, but it is mean fiction: For the writing of his novel, Mr. Klein has turned to the Arkansas rumour mill — not a pretty thing. The fictional governor thinks he has got a black teenager pregnant and tries to intimidate her family into exonerating him. The Hillary character has affairs with men and women.

It was a measure of the twisted, symbiotic relationship between the journalist and the Clintonites that, before Anonymous was unmasked, they helped Mr.

Klein hawk a book with a highly unflattering portrait of the Clintons by going on Larry King and proclaiming it eerily accurate.

This Washington love story has a happy ending suited to an age beyond parody. Mr. Klein should be happy because he made \$6 million and he has a boss who lied for him and he made fools out of his trusting colleagues and he proved himself a true writer. President Clinton should be happy because he has taken so many hits, from Mr. Klein to Gary Aldrich, that he has managed to rope-a-dope his way back into Americans' good graces. James Carville

and Dee Dee Myers, who were once paid by the Clintons to lie, should be happy because, thanks to Joe Klein, they now get to denounce journalists as liars. And journalists should be happy because, in this era when they are seen as scum, they have finally, thanks to Joe Klein, found someone to look down on.

All the scoundrels get what they want. Oh, yes, the scoundrels in Hollywood, too.

The New York Times

# Scientists crack secret of keeping grass green

By Paul Nuki

BRITAIN'S green and pleasant land is about to get greener. Scientists have identified the genetic trigger that keeps grass lush. The discovery will enable grass, plants and green vegetables to be genetically manipulated to help them stop wilting or losing colour.

It raises the prospect of lawns, sports fields and tennis courts that will retain their greenness without constant watering. It could also increase the shelf life of leafy vegetables while reducing the need for pesticides and fertilisers.

The breakthrough — which involved "mapping" the gene within a plant's

DNA that is responsible for it yellowing — was made by researchers at the Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research (IGER) in Aberystwyth.

In collaboration with colleagues at the University of Zurich, they discovered that the gene controls an enzyme which attacks and destroys chlorophyll, the green pigment that is vital to plants.

Plant's leaves work like minisolar panels. Chlorophyll absorbs sunlight to produce sugars which allow plants to grow. When the square chlorophyll molecules are attacked by the "oxygenase" enzyme identified by the researchers, they are cut on one side, lose their shape and are destroyed. The leaves then

start to go yellow.

Professor Howard Thomas, who headed the research team, said: "Some 2,000 tonnes of chlorophyll are destroyed every minute worldwide, which is equivalent to all the greenness in Britain disappearing in half an hour. Now we understand how that happens we can start to create plants that stay green."

Genetic manipulation will extend plants' lives but it will not deliver horticultural immortality. There is, however, huge commercial potential as modified grasses, cereals and leaves would retain their nutritional quality longer, according to scientists.

Dr. Gavin Bailey, research and development manager at Safeway, the

supermarket giant, said: "If scientists can delay the degenerative process, it would reduce wastage, extend shelf life and boost quality. It's fundamental research — an important part of the jigsaw of plant life."

Stay-green grass — designer strains of which are growing in the IGER laboratory — has aroused the interest of sports field specialists. Michael Hanaway, chief executive of the Sports Turf Research Institute whose advisers help in tending the Wimbledon tennis courts, Lord's cricket ground and the greens at Wentworth golf course, said the discovery was extremely promising.

"Colour is a key factor in

our work, especially where television coverage is involved," said Mr. Hanaway. "Until now the only way to achieve good greenness has been through intensive management. This new grass will have the colour inherent in the strain."

Food crops have been becoming greener for centuries because the human eye is adept at distinguishing between shades of green. People, aware that greener vegetables are more nutritious, have weeded out the less appealing.

Throughout agricultural history we have improved plant quality by selecting for greenness in a casual way," said Mr. Thomas. "This technology is not a

threat, it will simply allow us to do the same thing much more quickly."

The research also explains for the first time the chemistry behind colour variations in garden peas that were first explored 130 years ago by Gregor Mendel, an Austrian monk and botanist widely regarded as the founding father of genetics.

He observed that if two plants were cross-bred, successive generations inherited predictable characteristics from the two.

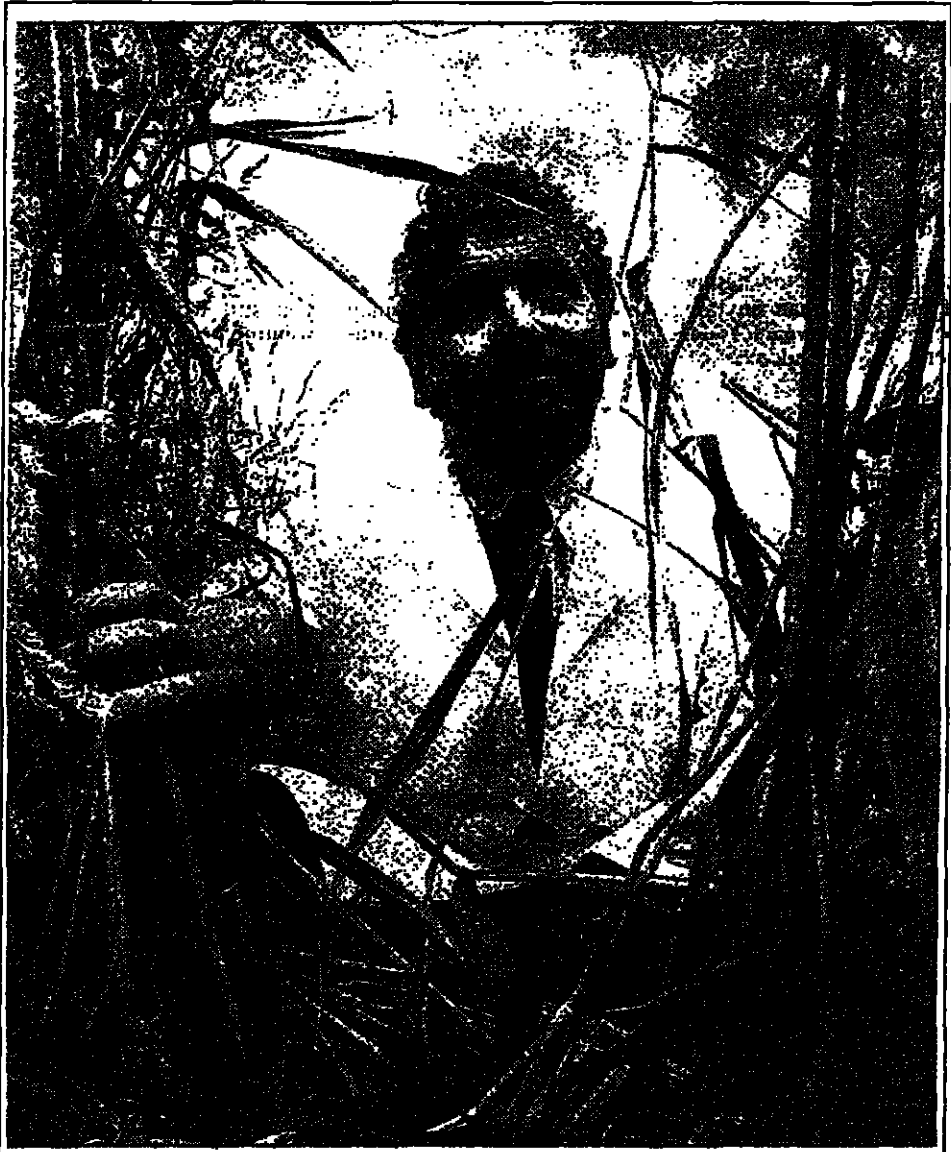
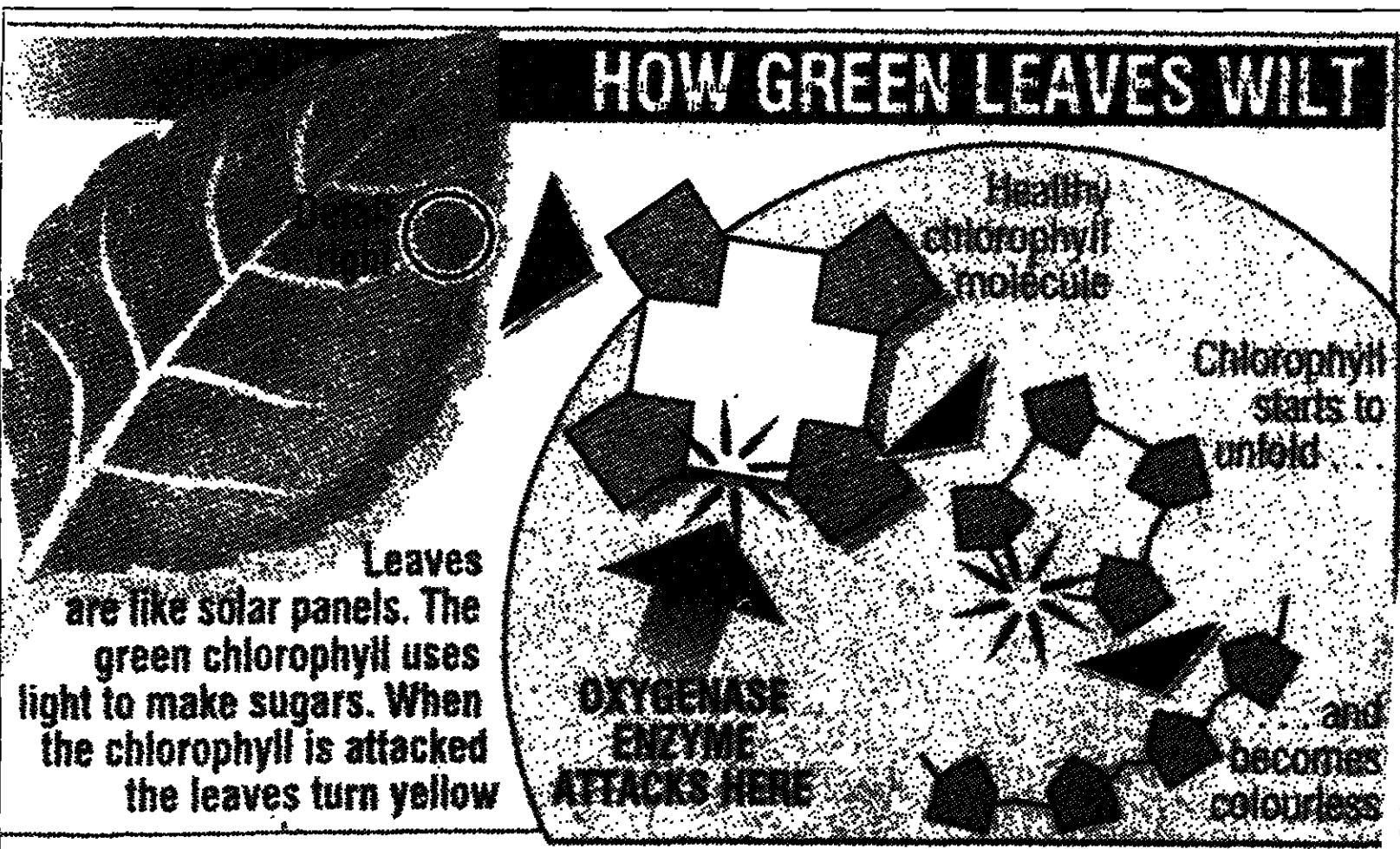
"This latest discovery explains those observations. It has tremendous potential," said John MacLeod, director of the National Institute of Agricultural Botany in Cambridge.

Consumer organisations, however, remain sceptical about the potential popularity of genetically modified food. Of 500 people interviewed by "Which?" magazine about the genetically engineered

cheese and tomato purées on sale in Britain, a third said they regarded them as "interfering with nature."

"Some modifications may seem harmless, but caution is needed," said Diane McCrea, head of food and health at "Which?" magazine. "All these foods should go through rigorous checks before reaching supermarket shelves."

The Sunday Times



Professor Howard Thomas admires a field of lush new grass at the Iger Institute

## Bundestag president reiterates commitment to peace process, values Kingdom's role

(Continued from page 1)

efforts to bring the peace talks to fruition.

Ms. Suessmuth said that Europe was concerned with bringing about peace and stability to the Middle East. "We are not indifferent" to the peace process, she said, highlighting the negative impact of war and refugees on the whole world.

"Germany has a very deep interest in a successful peace process," she told the Jordan Times, adding that the Arab countries are appreciative of the support Germany is providing to countries of the area as they pursue peace.

In her talks with Jordanian officials, Ms. Suessmuth also discussed bilateral relations, especially economic cooperation. She said Germany and Jordan are cooperating on projects in the areas of water, environment and vocational

education among others.

Ms. Suessmuth stressed in her meeting with Prince Hassan the need to support efforts to improve the economic situation in the Middle East and to contribute to the peace building process.

Mr. Kabarti said German and European efforts in support of the peace process will reflect positively on the peoples of the area.

Mr. Srouf also expressed appreciation for the role Germany is playing in the region and the "fruitful cooperation" between Jordan and Germany.

In comments she made during a meeting with members of the House, the German parliamentarian said Middle East peace cannot be achieved unless the rights of all parties are met. She said peace will not prevail unless a Palestinian state is established and unless Israel's right to

live within secure borders and in cooperation with its neighbours is guaranteed.

"As for Jerusalem, I wish it will not be under the control of one side to the exclusion of others because it is sacred and has special status among all parties," she said.

"We believe that poverty and injustice must be fought so that there will not be oppression that will lead to violence," she said.

The German parliamentarian said that Europe has an important role to play in the economic development of the region, adding that "we are waiting for Europe to play a bigger role not just in the economic domain but also in the political field."

On the second day of her first official visit to the Kingdom, Ms. Suessmuth met with Her Royal Highness Princess Rahma, who discussed with her prospects of cooperation in

supporting youth activities and channelling them towards social work. They also discussed means of cooperation with the U.S.-based International Youth Organisation, which has recently decided to expand its activities that aim at channelling youth activities towards serving comprehensive development projects on voluntary basis to include Jordan.

The German parliamentarian also visited Noor Al Hussein Foundation and was briefed by officials there on its activities. Ms. Suessmuth also Wednesday visited the Baqaa refugee camp where she was briefed by United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees (UNRWA) officials on the services it provides to refugees. She was accompanied on the visit by Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee at the House Fawzi Tuameh.

## Government insists it adopted best solution to dealing with subsidies

(Continued from page 12)

the issue should be looked at as a national cause. He explained that higher budget deficit, which would reach JD 160 million if the government does not rechannel subsidies, should not be seen as a small amount because it took six years for a number of governments to be able to reduce the budget deficit by JD 160 million under the economic structural adjustment programme.

Khalid Abu Hassan and

Haidar Murad, presidents of the chambers of industry and commerce respectively voiced their support for rechanneling the subsidy but expressed their disappointment for not being consulted as representatives of the private sector. They urged the government to continue the reform programme and to involve the private sector in the decision-making process.

President of the Consumer Protection Society Mohammad Obeidat also voiced support for ending the subsidies and for the

need to raise the very low bread prices but he disagreed with the compensation mechanism. He said that unemployment was high and prices were increasing steadily and without proper control. Accordingly, he said, poverty in the country was spreading fast. He added that by raising the price of bread, the cost of living will rise and other products not related to flour and bread will also rise.

Dr. Obeidat demanded the enactment of laws prohibiting monopoly and protecting con-

sumers as quick as possible. Dr. Obeidat called for cutting the budget deficit gradually and urged the government not to rush in taking such a decision.

Dr. Muasher reiterated that the government has examined all possible options and adopted the one which is most suitable. "Anyone who has other alternatives, within the constraints of funds and time (can) come forward and he will get all the attention and gratitude from the government," he said.

## Assad, Ross discuss resuming Mideast talks

(Continued from page 1)

not be fooled by Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu's new-found flexibility.

"The formal and sudden flexibility as well as the political conformity Netanyahu is trying to show and spread could temporarily fool some people but not all of them and not for ever," the official daily Al Thawra wrote. "Mr. Netanyahu, surrounded on all sides, is try-

ing to breach the Arab, European and international walls around him to win approval for his aggressive tendencies," it added.

Mr. Ross is due to travel later to Israel for a meeting with Mr. Netanyahu. In a parallel mission French Foreign Minister Hervé de Charette is also in the Middle East. He met with Mr. Assad on Tuesday.

According to the Israeli daily Haaretz, Mr.

Netanyahu plans to offer a conditional Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon in a bid to relaunch the talks with Syria.

Under the proposals to be discussed with Mr. Ross Thursday, Israel would pull out of the border strip it has occupied since 1958 in exchange for the disarming of Hizbollah guerrillas in the area and some kind of security deployment along its northern border with Lebanon.

Syria is the main foreign power broker in Lebanon, where it deploys some 35,000 troops.

A senior Israeli official, asking not to be named, said the government was "encouraged" by an unprecedented exchange of bodies and prisoners with Hizbollah guerrillas last Sunday.

"Perhaps" it shows Hizbollah's protectors, Syria and Iran, are finally turning the corner," he said.



## Kuwait foreign jobless rate grows

KUWAIT (R) — Unemployment among expatriates in the wealthy Gulf state of Kuwait rose to 17.1 per cent in 1995 from 16.7 per cent in 1994, planning ministry statistics published by the Arab Times Wednesday showed.

The jobless rate among Kuwaitis fell to 1.4 per cent in 1995 from 1.5 per cent in 1994, the English-language newspaper said, without giving the actual numbers of jobless.

Most foreigners are menial or clerical workers hired on contract from Arab countries, principally Egypt and Syria, and from Asia, mainly India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and the Philippines. There is also a sizeable Iranian community.

Members of parliament

have said unemployment is largely the result of an illegal trade in visas that lures migrants from poor countries on promises of jobs that do not exist.

The ministry said the Kuwaiti population rose 3.9 per cent to 708,115 in 1995 from 681,526 in 1994. The non-Kuwaiti population rose 8.9 per cent to 1,250,679 in 1995 from 1,148,595 in 1994.

The non-Kuwaiti population in 1995 included 122,525 stateless people, down from 124,933 in 1994.

The figures show that the influx of foreign workers has pushed the proportion of Kuwaitis in the total population down to 36.1 per cent in 1995 from 37.2 per cent in 1994.

## Japan says U.S. Mideast sanctions might hurt trade

TOKYO (R) — A Japanese government official said Wednesday that a U.S. bill to punish foreign companies that invest in Libya and Iran could threaten global trade.

"It is doubtful whether a sanctions bill approved by the U.S. alone can be applied to foreign companies," the official said. "The bill could damage world trade."

But Japan had no plans to draft laws to counter the U.S. move, he said.

Another Japanese official said Tokyo had been voicing such concerns to the U.S. government. He said the U.S. bill could violate global trade laws, and that extraterritorial legislation was not accepted by international law.

The U.S. House of Representatives Tuesday approved and sent to the White

House a bill to tighten sanctions against Iran and Libya, countries Washington considers to be sponsors of terrorism.

The bill, which does not affect existing investments, would punish foreign firms that invest in oil and gas projects in the two states.

The White House said it was studying the bill to decide whether President Bill Clinton should sign it.

The European Union said it was considering counter measures in order to defend its citizens and industries against the effects of the U.S. move.

Japan's trade ties with Iran are mostly through its large imports of crude oil.

Most Japanese firms have been hesitant about investing in Iran due to the possibility

of U.S. sanctions as well as high risks, oil industry sources said.

"The U.S. position towards the country has been well-known," an oil industry official said.

"It is unlikely that any firm has been preparing to make large investments there," he added.

Oil industry sources said crude imports from Iran were unlikely to decline because of the U.S. bill.

According to Japan's ministry of international trade and industry, in calendar 1995, Japan imported 22.89 million kilolitres or 143.9 million barrels of crude oil from Iran. The amount represented 8.6 per cent of Japan's total 1995 imports of 266.83 million kilolitres (1.68 billion barrels).

## Indian budget praised for pursuing reform with a 'human face'

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Indian Finance Minister P. Chidambaram's budget for the year to March 1997 was generally welcomed Tuesday for pursuing economic reform while fighting poverty.

"Chidambaram has tried to keep major sections of the population and the constituents of his United Front government happy," the Business Standard newspaper said.

"The broad message is of continued reform with a human face," the economic reforms launched five years ago by the previous Congress (I) Party government had been criticised by opponents as being "anti-poor," benefiting only the urban population and middle-class.

Mr. Chidambaram unveiled a budget Monday that sought to achieve a balance between continuing economic liberalisation and the alleviation of poverty.

Among the major beneficiaries were farmers, who make up 70 per cent of India's population of 950 million. Fertiliser subsidies

were increased, irrigation schemes launched and access to rural credit made easier.

The budgets of the departments of rural development and education were nearly doubled.

Mr. Chidambaram said the 13-party United Front coalition which took power on June 1 was making an effort "to address areas which have not received adequate attention during the five years of economic reforms."

"Agriculture reforms have been neglected and poverty needs attention," he said.

S. Venkataramanan, a former governor of the Reserve Bank of India, the country's central bank, said the finance minister had put together "a budget for growth, reform and social justice."

"The budget will be remembered as a successful attempt to continue reforms," he said, adding that it "assures the world that India is on the right path."

Rahul Bajaj, chairman of Bajaj Auto, said the main aim was to encourage

growth in agriculture, industry and services while satisfying United Front coalition partners such as the communists on the social justice front.

"Indian industry believes that economic reforms should have a human face," Mr. Bajaj said. "Without more employment and greater purchasing power industry will not find customers."

On a more critical note, the Economic Times said "the beneficiaries of the stepped-up subsidies, however, are not the poor and the wretched but the better off farmers."

"They have been sprinkled with additional subsidies... for a high yield in rural politics," the newspaper said.

"The corporate sector, too, has been given substantial concessions... all of which are music to corporate ears," it added.

The budget cut import duties and long-term capital gains taxes, placed greater emphasis on improving infrastructure and raised the investment ceiling of foreign institutional investors

in a listed company from five per cent to 10 per cent.

"The message going overseas is positive," the Business Standard said. "Foreign institutional investors now have a greater freedom to invest."

The Indian Express praised what it described as a "please-all budget," but noted that a number of "politically sensitive" moves such as reducing subsidies and opening up the state-controlled insurance industry had been put off.

The Calcutta-based daily The Statesman agreed, saying that Mr. Chidambaram has "tried to shut as many problems as possible to

commissions yet to be set up or new institutions to be established."

"This raises two questions: How soon will the results of these deliberations and institutional changes materialise and to what extent will such measures lead to bureaucratic proliferation?" The Standard asked.

Monday's budget forecast expenditure in the year to March 1997 of \$58.48 billion against revenue of \$55.93 billion, leading to a deficit of \$2.55 billion, or 2.5 per cent of gross domestic product.

### HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR FRIDAY JULY 26, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Novel activities are in the agenda today, however, they are apt to have a slow start, afterwards, go great guns. Make new friends this evening and you can have a great time tonight with fellow associates.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 21) You may feel today that the one you love is not really devoted, however, if you act kindly, you can soon get excellent response. Later this evening you can go out on the town with your loved ones and have a good time together.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) A fellow associate could be unreasonable in the morning today, however, careful handling later this evening brings the right results and this can spell success to you if you get the approval of some bigwig.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) You may feel that you are dragging along with your career activities today and you are not reaching your aims, so get your finest talents operating. Later this evening you can meet with some knowledgeable person.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Be charming with others since there may be a delay in plans you had made today, and don't get distracted from your current activities. This will be a good evening to meet with close friends and plan some fun activities for the days ahead.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Be poised at home and handle difficult situations there very wisely. Invite persons in who are the progressive type and pick their brains for some constructive ideas which will be helpful for some current projects.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Plan how best to handle desk career activities and correspondence today and then later tonight you can play right through them with relative ease if you follow the advice of some knowledgeable person who has given you the tools.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) In the morning today, you are concerned with monetary affairs and later tonight you can find new ways of adding to your abundance. In the days ahead you will be able to complete some important project with some assistance.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) You may feel thwarted in gaining your personal aims early in the day today, however, change your attitude and everything will work out well. Later tonight you can go out on the town with your mate to some romantic spot.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to Jan. 20) Plan how to get rid of a tiresome matter in the morning today, and later tonight a new attitude will bring success with it. You can meet with some authority figure at this time and discuss your methods of operation for the days ahead.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Contact long-time friends of much experience today and gain their assistance in the morning for some method of operation concerning a new project, which will give you much prosperity in the days ahead.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Plan how today to gain more prestige in the outside world and you can see your success grow. Do something thoughtful for bigwigs and gain their favour so that you can notice much monetary advancement for the days ahead.

### HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, JULY 25, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Arrange new interests today and decide upon the best path to follow in the days ahead with your mate. State your aims clearly to those in authority who can be of assistance in terms of you gaining success.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 21) Cooperate with a fellow associate today who can be helpful in furthering a project you're working on. Greater success is in the future for you if you take the suggestions of some knowledgeable person.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) If you wish to continue today with a pile of career activities ahead of you, schedule your time and activities well and you will be prosperous. Later tonight you can meet with some close friends and have a pleasant time.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) You have a fine talent which can be profitable to you. If some form of recreation appeals to you, sign up for it at this time and you can have a wonderful time. You can stay home with your mate tonight and very romantic.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) A change may have to be made at home today which will improve conditions there, so be clever in making it. Later tonight will be good for you to meet with some knowledgeable person and discuss some important project.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Study into interests today which will last for some time to come and add them to your present ones. This evening will be pleasant for you if you invite some close friends into your home and have a good time with them.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Make plans which can bring you more prosperity today and let them be long lasting. Retain an advisor who has been right in financial matters and make the best of his or her knowledge for saving you some money.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) If you act in a direct and positive manner today, you can gain the personal aims which mean so much to you. Later tonight you can spend some time with your loved ones at home and have a good time together.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Get a plan well-formulated today for the days ahead so that you can get started on it later this evening. Tonight will be good for you to consult with a bigwig and decide the best course of action for your success on a new project.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to Jan. 20) Plan to see those persons who have more or less the same interests as you. Today, you will gain some personal goal if you work at it. This evening you can complete some project with the assistance of fellow associates.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) By conversing today with your loved ones at length, you can plan the days ahead more intelligently at this time. The evening will be delightful if you spend some quality time with your mate and plan for some romance.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Communicate with fellow associates can improve your dealings together, so by all means you should get together and brainstorm any ideas. Gain more cooperation from some one in authority through direct communication.

Birthstone of July: Ruby — Tiger's Eye.

## Business Public Opportunity

By Francesca Ciria, Special to the Jordan Times

**AMMAN:** A new publication on the Kingdom's business environment, including interviews, investment opportunities, information on economic laws and regulations, as well as profiles of 200 companies operating in all sectors, stands out as one of the most comprehensive and useful market for international investors since October's Amman ME economic summit.

Available in both a 1-page book and on a 3.5-inch floppy disk, "Business & Investment Opportunities in Jordan 1996" recently launched by Market Advanced Group (MAG) aims

## Poll: English beats Chinese as business language in Asia

HONG KONG (AFP) — A survey of 1,000 business executives in Asia found English is the most important language for business, ahead of Chinese, which came second.

The survey, conducted by the Far Eastern Economic Review, found that 73 per cent of respondents ranked English as the most important language for business, while 30 per cent ranked Chinese as the most important.

The poll also revealed that 69 per cent of respondents ranked English as the most important language for business, while 30 per cent ranked Chinese as the most important.

The figures were higher in Japan (87 per cent) and South Korea (87 per cent).

A total of more than 3,000 people were polled in 10 Asian countries.

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### THE Daily Crossword by Diane C. Baldwin

ACROSS

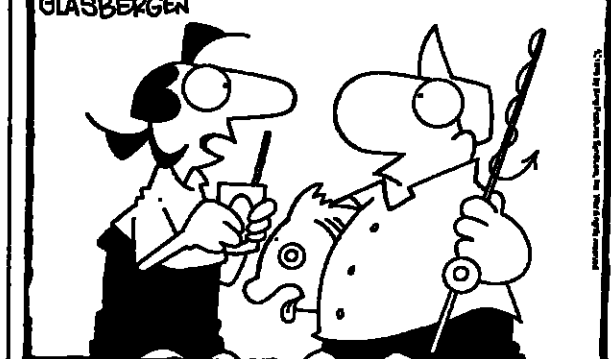
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- Imaginary monster
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- Schoolboy collar
- Letters on a vessel
- Place
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- Singer Ross
- The United States
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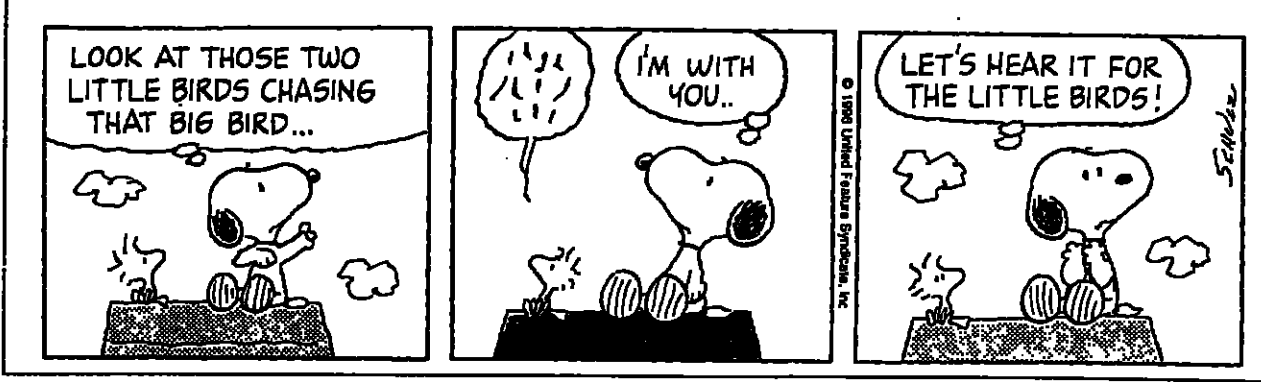
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- Win, place, and show
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- "Be Prepared" org.
- High-pitched
- Roll call word
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- Partner of means
- "true what they say..."
- Indiana Jones temple
- even keel
- Go under
- Vintners' valley
- Vacation island off Venezuela
- Chinook emblem
- Friend: Fr.
- Work a whetstone
- R.F.D. word
- Unanimously
- Leif's father
- Pen or cob
- Landed
- Redolence
- Grande or Bravo
- Tickled pink
- Town by Tahoe
- Bend out of shape
- Author Bret
- Engrave
- Tried's companion
- Circle dance
- Rung
- Cookie
- Bamako's land
- March fifteenth
- Printed words
- Grape, e.g.
- Bank adjunct

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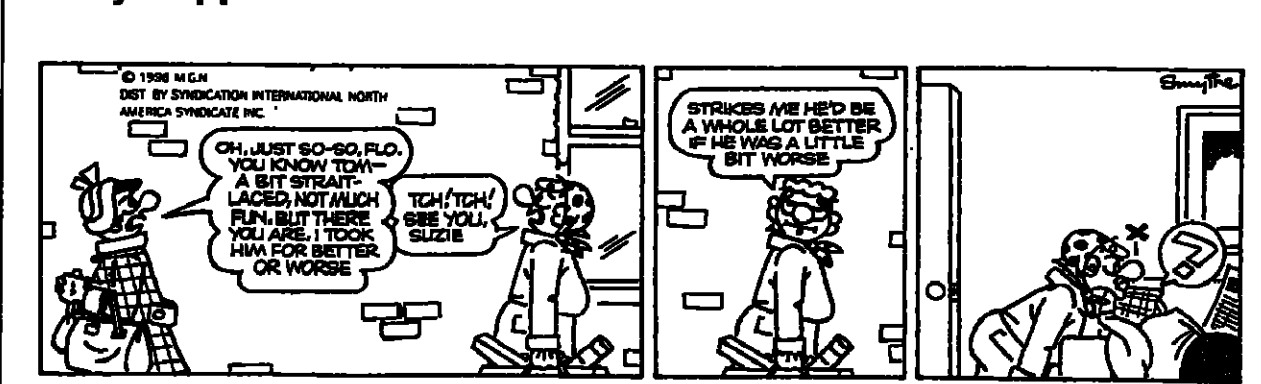
### THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen



### Peanuts



### Andy Capp



### Mutt'n'Jeff





## A review of news from the Arabic press

**By Francesca Ciriaci**  
*Special to the Jordan Times*

**AMMAN**—A new publication on the Kingdom's business environment, including overviews on investment opportunities, information on economic laws and regulations as well as profiles of over 200 companies operating in all sectors, stands out as one of the most concrete attempts to "market Jordan internationally" since last October's Amman MENA economic summit.

Available in both a 160-page book and on a computer diskette form, "Business & Investment Opportunities in Jordan 1996," recently launched by the Advanced Marketing Group (AMG), "aims at

promoting and introducing Jordan and its member organisations to the international community, in the hope of enhancing investments and international cooperation," AMG said.

The project came as a result of a public-private sector partnership between the AMG and the Investment Promotion Corporation (IPC), a juristic body established in the framework of last year's new Investment Promotion Law to especially focus on assisting local and foreign investors and encouraging joint-ventures.

"A stepping stone for private and public sector collaboration, Business & Investment Opportunities in Jordan was produced

through strong cooperation between these two sectors and it aims at generating business and increasing the level of investment in the country through a further strengthening of this partnership," IPC Director-General Taleb Rifai said.

Stressing the "special partnership" between the AMG and the IPC, AMG president, Jad Makdadh told the Jordan Times that 10,000 copies of this business guide have been printed and "are now being distributed to the international community free of charge."

"We have distributed the diskette to all diplomatic missions and foreign trade institutes and are in the process of providing them

"with the book," said Mr. Makdeh.

The first 80 pages of **Business & Investment Opportunities in Jordan**, prepared by renowned international consultants Arthur Andersen, highlight Jordan's competitive advantages as an investment-friendly country and give a detailed account of the new laws on investment, sales tax, import and export and copyright.

The second part of the publication features a list of private companies operating in various sectors, from agriculture and industry to tourism and engineering and is followed by the profiles of all the business associations in the Kingdom.

400 for a half-a-page-space, each company was able to present its profile, specify the kind of cooperation it seeks and indicate a contact-person.

Responding to the remark that the list published in this guide could not be fully representative of the country's business community, as companies were advertised under the payment of a fee, Mr. Makdah pointed out that "the project received no funding from any other side."

He also added that Business & Investment Opportunities in Jordan has an interactive site on the international Internet and that the publication is going to be renewed and updated annually.

**\*\* WELL-INFORMED** sources at the Department of Land and Survey expect investments in real estate to reach about JD 940 million in 1996 as land prices have been scaling new high beyond expectations and traditional increases over the past few years. Investments in Real Estate totalled JD 889 million and provided the treasury with a JD 78 million revenue in 1995. The investments in previous years were JD 728 million, JD 718 million and JD 655 million in 1994, 1993 and 1992 respectively. In 1991 the real estate investment totalled JD 516 million.

The investments were mostly in the organised areas in Amman, Zarqa, Irbid, Balqa and Madaba and has extended to include the suburbs of cities and villages. Surprisingly enough was the high demand for real estate south of Amman. The interest in that area was attributed to the relatively low prices especially when taking into consideration that about 65 per cent of the investors are from the medium and

limited-income groups. Another factor has been the influence of the peace process and the positive effects it had on the market in addition to the rumours that promoted south of Amman as an important area.

According to the sources, the high demand for land south of Arunran has caused unjustified price rises that exceeded 100 per cent. The revenue collected by the department from real estate transactions has jumped by 27 per cent, 12 per cent and eight per cent from 1992 until 1994. The number of contracts increased by 9.3 per cent in 1992 before falling slightly to 7.3 per cent in 1993 and to 4.5 per cent in 1994. In 1995 the number of contracts shot up by 15 per cent.

The sources, however, stressed the importance of reducing investments in real estate and of channelling the large sums of money to other productive sectors that employ labour and generate good return from industrial and agricultural projects (Al Dustour).

**HONG KONG (AFP)** — A resounding majority of Asians feel English is still the most important language for business, although Chinese is now seen as a strong contender in the commerce communications stake, according to a poll.

An overwhelming 97.2 per cent of respondents in Asia felt English to be the main business language, with Putonghua (Mandarin) second on 84.1 per cent, according to the poll run by the Far Eastern Economic Review.

Only 11.8 per cent felt Japanese is important for business today.


The poll also revealed that almost 100 per cent of Malaysians feel they speak English well, with South Koreans at the bottom of that scale — a not-inconsiderable 70 per cent.

The Malaysian figure was boosted by the fact that 72 per cent said they spoke a different language at home and at work.

A total of 69 per cent of Hong Kong residents polled said they spoke different languages in different environments.

The figures were even higher in Japan (87 per cent) and South Korean (86 per cent).

A total of more than 3,000 people were polled in 10 Asian countries.

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ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 24/07/1996										
										
PAGE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
HIGH	LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	# / %	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE THRUOUT JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE
250.000	205.000	ARAB BANK	12.0	1.60	15	760	156465	219.00	219.00	-04
2.400	2.350	BANK OF JORDAN	10.9	0.00	5	2800	8470	3.06	3.02	-04
1.850	1.850	KID. BANK (WV. EX)	10.9	0.00	5	2800	8470	3.06	3.02	-04
1.000	1.000	JOR. INVESTMENT BANK	10.9	0.00	5	2800	8470	3.06	3.02	-04
1.000	1.000	JOR. GULF BANK	8.7	7.37	6	2031	1933	46	95	-
4.180	4.000	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	10.9	0.00	5	2800	8470	3.06	3.02	-04
4.390	1.700	UNION W. SAV. DIV.	17.3	0.00	3	475	831	1.78	1.75	-03
4.350	3.200	UNION W. SAV. DIV.	17.3	0.00	3	475	831	1.78	1.75	-03
1.220	1.000	AMERICAN BANK	9	0.00	1	100	116	1.15	1.15	-01
1.700	1.000	PHILADEL. INV. EX.	9	0.00	1	100	116	1.15	1.15	-01
BANK SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 173.21 CHNG: -0.07 86 43885 199101										
2.910	2.150	JOR. FRENCH INSUR.	6.2	9.09	3	2900	5070	2.24	2.20	-03
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 123.47 CHNG: -0.15 3 2900 9070										
1.900	1.440	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	11.5	7.95	14	4025	6092	1.52	1.51	-01
2.760	2.280	MISER MINERALS	10.5	3.91	1	960	588	2.40	2.34	-06
1.000	1.000	JORDAN PET. PROD.	0.00	0.00	1	260	121	1.11	1.11	-01
7.970	7.500	ADJ. EDUCATION	30.7	2.79	2	564	5042	7.97	7.87	-04
1.430	1.560	HANSA DEVELOP.	0	0.00	7	3450	3690	1.01	1.00	-01
2.400	1.700	UNITED CO.	10.5	0.00	24	8207	15917	2.07	2.07	-01
1.200	0.820	UNION LAMB DEV.	0	0.00	1	500	479	1.00	0.98	-02
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 112.46 CHNG: -0.27 52 17541 31843										
1.260	1.120	ATACORP	9	0.00	1	180	121	1.28	1.21	-04
3.010	3.050	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	16.1	3.16	6	5781	18266	3.16	3.16	-01
5.960	4.760	ARAB PETROL. CO.	15.1	4.00	2	300	1230	8.05	8.20	-05
10.500	8.720	JOR. POTASH. & INDIAN	9.3	8.00	15	1767	1767	8.11	8.18	-01
1.350	1.020	ADJ. PETROL.	5.6	7.72	2	300	1965	6.55	6.70	-05
5.300	1.100	ARAB PETROL. CO.	18.8	5.02	11	2525	9937	4.48	4.43	-04
2.630	1.110	ADJ. PETROL.	5.6	7.72	2	300	1965	6.55	6.70	-05
1.900	1.460	HATIA INDUSTRIES	8	0.00	4	1050	1827	1.51	1.49	-02
8.000	2.250	ADJ. ALUMINA DIV. DIV.	12.3	4.48	16	3500	8540	4.52	4.48	-04
8.840	4.120	ADJ. ALUMINA DIV. DIV.	12.3	4.48	16	3500	8540	4.52	4.48	-04
7.740	4.450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	9	0.00	46	74600	37781	1.00	0.92	-02
1.500	1.060	ARAB PAPER CONV. TR.	8.7	8.09	39	30750	3694	1.28	1.27	-01
1.500	1.060	ARAB PAPER CONV. TR.	8.7	8.09	39	30	1299	69	69	-
15.240	1.064	IMPRESSED STEEL DIV.	0	0.00	1	3400	700	1.28	1.28	-01
2.800	2.840	GRV. CHM. LDC.	0	0.00	1	100	100	2.80	2.84	-04
1.450	1.450	ADJ. CHM. WTR. MFC	18.3	0.00	11	2826	3464	3.00	3.00	-03
2.300	1.080	ARAB PETROL. CO.	27.3	0.00	10	1950	8774	1.44	1.46	-02
1.620	1.370	ADJ. CHM. WTR. MFC	18.3	0.00	11	2826	3464	3.00	3.00	-03
1.870	1.400	JOR. INDR. RESOURCES	18.1	0.00	8	1350	4834	1.44	1.44	-04
1.290	1.140	JOR. INDR. RESOURCES	18.1	0.00	8	1350	4834	1.44	1.44	-04
1.490	1.090	INFL. TONACCO	27.5	0.00	7	3300	1861	1.27	1.17	-02
2.730	1.130	UNION CH. & VEG.	28.8	0.00	2	350	409	1.28	1.27	-01
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 109.11 CHNG: -0.25 363 168748 222701										
GRAND TOTALS INDEX: 108.62 CHNG: 0.15 404 232271 458715										
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 24/07/1996										
840	510	CIVILIAN GEN. STORAGE	22.9	0.00	4	6200	3475	57	57	-
1.810	630	JNR. TRAILER FAC.	17.1	0.00	13	1640	616	46	46	-
1.810	630	WATCO CORP. CENTERS	8	0.00	1	1548	837	58	64	-01
1.5CC	1.050	WANA WTR. INVESTMENT	28.1	0.00	10	2800	4266	1.50	1.44	-08
1.000	700	WANA WTR. INVESTMENT	28.1	0.00	10	2800	4266	1.50	1.44	-08
1.000	700	WANA WTR. INVESTMENT	28.1	0.00	10	2800	4266	1.50	1.44	-08
1.000	700	WANA WTR. INVESTMENT	28.1	0.00	10	2800	4266	1.50	1.44	-08
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1.000	700	WANA WTR. INVESTMENT	28.1	0.00	10	2800	4266	1.50	1.44	-08
1.000	700	WANA WTR. INVESTMENT	28.1	0.00	10	2800	4266	1.50	1.44	-08
1.000	700	WANA WTR. INVESTMENT	28.1	0.00	10	2800	4266	1.50	1.44	-08
1.000	700	WANA WTR. INVESTMENT	28.1	0.00	10	2800	4266	1.50	1.44	-08
1.000	700	WANA WTR. INVESTMENT	28.1	0.00	10	2800	4266	1.50	1.44	-08
1.000	700	WANA WTR. INVESTMENT	28.1	0.00	10	2800	4266	1.50	1.44	-08
1.000	700	WANA WTR. INVESTMENT	28.1	0.00	10	2800	4266	1.50	1.44	-08
1.000	700	WANA WTR. INVESTMENT	28.1	0.00	10	2800	4266	1.50	1.44	-08
1.000	700	WANA WTR. INVESTMENT	28.1	0.00	10	2800	4266	1.50	1.44	-08
1.000	700	WANA WTR. INVESTMENT	28.1	0.00	10	2800	4266	1.50	1.44	-08
1.000	700	WANA WTR. INVESTMENT	28.1	0.00	10	2800	4266	1.50	1.44	-08
1.000	700	WANA WTR. INVESTMENT	28.1	0.00	10	2800	4266	1.50	1.44	-08
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1.000	700	WANA WTR. INVESTMENT	28.1	0.00	10	2800	4266	1.50	1.44	-08
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1.000	700	WANA WTR. INVESTMENT	28.1	0.00	10	2800	4266	1.50	1.44	-08
1.000	700	WANA WTR. INVESTMENT	28.1	0.00	10	2800	4266	1.50	1.44	-08
1.000	700	WANA WTR. INVESTMENT	28.1	0.00	10	2800	4266	1.50	1.44	-08
1.000	700	WANA WTR. INVESTMENT	28.1	0.00	10	2800	4266	1.50	1.44	-08
1.000	700	WANA WTR. INVESTMENT	28.1	0.00	10	2800	4266	1.50	1.44	-08
1.000	700	WANA WTR. INVESTMENT	28.1	0.00	10	2800	4266	1.50	1.44	-08
1.000	700	WANA WTR. INVESTMENT	28.1	0.00	10	2800	4266	1.50	1.44	-08
1.000	700	WANA WTR. INVESTMENT	28.1	0.00	10	2800	4266	1.50	1.44	-08

GRAND TOTAL

\* New 12 months low  
S: Stock dividend during the past 12 months  
N: Listed during the past 12 months  
P: P/S ratio is 100 or more  
S: Average P/S  
S: Average P/S, per cent N/A for the most recent year

**The Business of Information**

Major Currencies & Cross Rates					Prices as at _____ 24/07/96 21:36				
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	SRG	FRF
US Dollar		1.4888	0.8441	1.2128	108.25	1.3714	1917.80	1.6704	5.0410
DE Mark	0.67718		0.4324	0.8147	72.75	0.9213	1018.80	1.7221	3.9863
GB Sterling	1.5525	1.5525		1.8856	167.98	1.2919	2365.92	2.5932	7.2622
CH Franc	0.8245	122.69	0.5305		89.24	1.1302	1250.21	137.68	4.1551
JP Yen	0.0092	13.7733	0.5943	1.1193		1.2661	14.00	154.17	4.8525
CA Dollar	0.7292	1.0648	0.4691	0.8440	1.27		1108.87	1.1174	3.6729
IT Lira	0.0007	0.9799	0.4280	0.0798	1403.11	0.9034		2.2006	3.1397
NL Guilder	0.5987	0.9805	0.3853	72.56	64.77	0.8207	907.92		3.0160
FR Franc	0.0084	69.06	0.1277	0.2444	21.45	0.2720	33.12	33.1200	

Energy			Mid-East Currencies					
Oils	Last	Previous	Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
Brent	19.95	20.05	SA Riyal	0.2666	0.3970	0.17175	0.32365	28.89
W. Texas	20.91	21.50	AE Dirham	0.2723	0.40545	0.1754	0.30352	28.5037
Y. Texas	19.95	20.05	KW Dirham	3.4006	4.87512	2.15193	4.05515	361.925
Dubai	17.75	17.50	BH Dirham	0.3770	3.24445	1.70853	3.21959	287.438
UL Gas	197.05	198.00	CY Pound	2.1605	3.9194	1.391	2.6199	233.842

Metal Prices			Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)					
Metal	Bid	Offer	Period	-1-	-3-	-6-	-9-	-12-
			Cncy	Month	Months	Months	Months	Year
Gold (24)	386.3	386.8	USD	5.31	5.47	5.62	5.81	6.00
Silver (999.9)	5.01	5.03	GBP	5.70	5.78	5.71	5.75	5.98
Platinum (999.5)	396.5	397.5	JPY	0.40	0.65	0.85	0.98	0.98
AL (3 Months)	N/A	N/A	DEM	3.08	3.18	3.23	3.25	3.37
CU (3 Months)	N/A	N/A	FRF	3.55	3.62	3.69	3.75	3.90
ZN (3 Months)	N/A	N/A	CHF	2.33	2.38	2.53	2.63	2.62
Lead (3 Months)	N/A	N/A	ITL	8.46	8.31	8.12	8.06	8.00
Ni (3 Months)	N/A	N/A						

Bourse	Index	Value	Chng	% Chng	High	Low	Pc Ch
New York	DOW JONES	5345.21	-1.74	-0.01	5379.1	5270.35	5346.55
New York	S&P 500	625.83	-0.24	-0.2	629.1	616.63	626.67
London	FT-SE 100	3668.8	-39.6	-1.07	3679.1	3643.7	3708.4
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	20541.03	-32.66	-2.52	21174.2	20627.9	21163.7
Paris	CAC 40	1954.7	-28.13	-1.42	1986.1	1938.64	1982.23
Frankfurt	DAX	2447.8	-27.27	-4.1	2481.95	2440.23	2475.07

Energy			* JOD Cross Rates		
Commodities	Last	Delivery	Currency	Buy	Sell
Coffee (c/lbs)	115.33	Spot	US Dollar	0.708	0.710
Cocoa (c/lbs)	1403	Spot	GB Sterling	1.098	1.0355
Sugar (c/ton)	36.11	Spot	DE Mark	0.4743	0.4767
Wheat (c/lbs)	190	Spot	CH Franc	0.6829	0.6858
Soya (c/lbs)	23.82	Spot	FR Franc	0.1402	0.1409
Wheat (c/ton)	124	Spot	JP Yen	0.2854	0.2897
Burley (c/lbs)	3.57	Spot	NL Guilder	0.4227	0.4248
Corn (c/ton)	4.30	Spot	IT Lira	0.2482	0.2500

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# Courageous Strug helps clinch U.S. gold

ATLANTA (R) — Kerri Strug proved herself the most magnificent of "the magnificent seven" team of U.S. women gymnasts Tuesday by completing a final vault that clinched their first Olympic title despite an injury that left her crumpled in pain on the floor.

Strug was carried away from the Georgia Dome on a stretcher after sending more than 30,000 spectators into raptures with a vault that scored 9.712 and made certain of the crown for the United States over Russia. Romania took bronze.

The roaring reached yet another crescendo when the U.S. team made their way to the podium for the medal ceremony with Strug in the rear, carried in the arms of personal coach Bela Karolyi.

Strug, 18, already wearing a cast, hopped around on one foot as she joined

her teammates in saluting the delirious crowd before being taken to hospital for treatment.

The Americans entered the finals trailing Russia by 0.127 of a point, but they made it clear it was their night on the very first rotation.

Despite starting on uneven bars — one of the Americans' weaker events — the U.S. team charged past the Russians, who were on the vault, by scoring more than half a point better.

Then it was on to the beam, where the Americans had stumbled in compulsories. Again they increased their lead and the party was on at the Dome.

By the time the U.S. side reached the vault in the final rotation, it appeared all but sewn up for the Americans. But Strug injured her ankle in her first try at the Yurchenko



The USA women's gymnastics team is congratulated by the Bronze medal-winning Romanian team after the USA won the Gold medal in the team competition at the Atlanta Olympic Games (Reuters photo)

and scored only 9.162. Two Russians had yet to post scores in the floor exercise, leaving Karolyi unsure whether a better vault would be needed.

"Do I need to go again?" Karolyi said Strug asked him after her first try. "How far off are we?"

"We don't know," Karolyi replied. "I'll do it," Strug answered.

U.S. head coach Martha Karolyi, the wife of Bela, said: "Nobody could take away her chance to make her second vault."

Team captain Amanda Borden said: "We weren't sure if we needed her vault to win. But we were rooting her on. We knew she'd be tough enough to pull through."

"She did a great job for the team."

The Americans finished with 389.225 points to 388.404 for Russia, who held off the fast-closing Romanians, who finished just 0.158 of point away from the bronze.

Strug, youngest member of the 1992 U.S. Bronze

medal team in Barcelona, was fifth best in the optionals competition and seventh overall in individual standings.

X-rays showed no fracture and a U.S. spokesman said later Strug had suffered a lateral sprain of the ankle.

Two other 1992 veterans, Dominique Dawes and Shannon Miller, who won five medals in Barcelona, also starred.

Miller finished second in the standings to world champion Lilia Podkopaeva, while Dawes was sixth overall after posting the second best score in the optionals.

Third best was Russian Dina Kochetkova. Romanian coach Octavian Belu, whose team won the last two world championships, praised the U.S. team.

"We met here maybe the best American team I ever saw," said Belu, whose own side was hurt by a last-minute injury to Anamaria Bican and had competed without a full

complement.

"They were better than the '84 U.S. team (which won silver)," said Belu. "They looked like a very strong army and we looked like a commando unit trying to survive without all our soldiers and without all our weapons."

The bravest soldier was Strug.

As it turned out, the Americans would have won without a second jump from her, but her bravery under fire was nonetheless inspiring.

Karolyi said doctors were insisting the four foot eight inch (1.42 m) Strug be rushed immediately to hospital after her vault, but the coach asked her if she wanted to join the medals ceremony.

"Yes I will, yes I will, yes I will," she replied. "Will you take me?"

Karolyi, who called her sprint down the runway for the final vault a "miracle," said he told her "the New York metropolitan police couldn't keep me from taking you."

## Fredericks to go for sprint double

ATLANTA (AFP) — in a dramatic about face Frankie Fredericks announced Tuesday that he was going to attempt the sprint double at the Atlanta Olympics.

Only two weeks ago Fredericks, who last month brought an end to America's 200 metre star Michael Johnson's unbeaten run in the event, said he would not try to repeat Carl Lewis' 1984 games double gold success in the 100m and 200m.

Although Fredericks has run two of the three fastest-ever 100m, he complained that the 100m was too risky.

"One mistake and you're history," said the Namibian.

Instead he said he would concentrate on the 200 metres and try to stop Johnson becoming the first man to do the 200m and 400m double.

But on Tuesday Fredericks, who is training with Britain's defending 100m Olympic champion Linford Christie, said he had had a change of heart.

Fredericks won his country's first Olympic medals when he won two silvers in the 1992 games in Barcelona. He was the 1993 world 200m champion but lost to Johnson at 200m at last year's championships in Gothenburg.

His championship record when he has attempted the double is: 1992 Olympics 2nd and 2nd, 1991 world championships 5th and 2nd, 1993 world championships 6th and 1st, 1995 world championships 4th and 2nd.

### Medals table after the 4th day of competition

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze
United States	9	12	3
Russia	5	5	2
Poland	5	2	1
China	4	5	3
France	4	3	6
Italy	3	2	3
South Korea	3	1	2
Turkey	3	0	1
Belgium	2	1	1
South Africa	2	0	1
Ireland	2	0	0
New Zealand	2	0	0
Cuba	1	4	2
Japan	1	2	0
Australia	1	0	5
Ukraine	1	0	2
Romania	1	0	1
Armenia	1	0	0
Costa Rica	1	0	0
Kazakhstan	1	0	0
Germany	0	6	9
Belarus	0	3	1
Greece	0	2	0
Brazil	0	1	2
Sweden	0	1	1
Austria	0	1	0
Britain	0	1	0
Finland	0	1	0
North Korea	0	1	0
Spain	0	1	0
Uzbekistan	0	1	0
Hungary	0	0	5
Bulgaria	0	0	4
Netherlands	0	0	4
Canada	0	0	2
Georgia	0	0	1
Moldova	0	0	1
Yugoslavia	0	0	1

### ITV's Olympic coverage on Channel 2 for Thursday

Equestrian	15:30 - 18:30
Rowing (semi finals)	15:55 - 18:40
Cycling (men's final)	16:25 - 20:15
Swimming heats	17:00 - 20:45
Boxing preliminary	20:25 - 22:55
Summary A (Channel 1)	20:30 - 21:30
Judo finals	21:55 - 23:50
Fencing (foil team final)	22:20 - 02:59
Gymnastics (ladies' individual all-round)	23:10 - 01:00
Summary B (Channel 1)	01:15 - 02:15
Swimming finals	02:25 - 04:35
Boxing preliminaries	02:55 - 05:25
Summary C (Channel 1)	07:00 - 08:00

### ITV's Olympic coverage on Channel 2 for Friday

Athletics walk men's 20km	14:50 - 19:50
Rowing (finals)	15:55 - 17:20
Cycling (finals)	15:55 - 22:00
Swimming heats	17:00 - 18:50
Equestrian 3-day jump final	17:50 - 20:15
Boxing preliminary	20:25 - 22:55
Summary A (Channel 1)	20:30 - 21:30
Judo (extra lightweight final)	21:55 - 23:30
Diving (platform ladies preliminaries)	21:55 - 00:30
Weightlifting	22:55 - 01:00
Athletics 1 final	23:20 - 00:00
Summary B (Channel 1)	01:15 - 02:15
Swimming finals	02:25 - 04:40
Boxing preliminaries	02:55 - 05:25
Summary C (Channel 1)	07:00 - 08:00

## Results from Atlanta Olympics on the fourth and fifth days of competition

### Wrestling

(preliminary rounds)

**Heavyweight**  
Petro Kotok (Ukraine) beat Juhla Ahokas (Finland), points 2.3-0.0  
Siamak Ghaffari (U.S.) beat Rene Schiekel (Germany), points 4.3-0.0  
Kenichi Suzuki (Japan) beat Raoul Dgavareli (Tajikistan), points 8.3-0.0

**Welterweight (74 kg)**  
Stoyan Stoyanov (Bulgaria) beat Kim Jin-Soo (South Korea), injury  
Erik Hahn (Germany) beat Tamas Bericzka (Hungary), points 3.3-1.1  
Feliberto Ascuy Aguilera (Cuba) beat Mnataskan Iskandaryan (Russia), points 5.3-4.1

**Flyweight**  
Dariusz Jablonski (Poland) beat Andriy Kalashnikov (Ukraine), points 7.3-4.1

**Light-heavyweight**  
Maik Bullmann (Germany) beat Derrick Waldroup (U.S.), points 4.3-0.0

### Tennis

**Women's singles, first round**  
Monica Seles (U.S.) beat Li Chen (China) 6-0 6-4  
Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario (Spain) beat Dominique Van Roost (Belgium) 6-1, 7-5  
Magdalena Maleeva (Bulgaria) beat Rennae Stubbs (Australia) 6-2, 6-1  
Judith Wiesner (Austria)

**Judo**  
Men's half-middleweight (78 kg)  
Pool A (third round)  
Cho In-Chul beat

beat Andrea Temesvari (Hungary) 7-6, (7-5), 6-4

**Men's singles, first round**  
Sargis Sargsian (Armenia) beat Daniel Nestor (Canada) 6-4 6-4  
Frederik Fetterlein (Denmark) beat Jacco Eltingh (Netherlands) 6-4 4-6 8-6  
Byron Black (Zimbabwe) beat Guillaume Raoux (France) 6-3, 3-6 6-2  
Marc Rosset (Switzerland) beat Hicham Arazi (Morocco) 6-2, 6-3  
Tim Henman (Britain) beat Shuzo Matsuo (Japan) 7-6, (7-4), 6-3  
Andrea Gaudenzi (Italy) beat Carlos Costa (Spain) 6-3, 6-2

**Table tennis**  
**Women's doubles round-robin phase:**  
Csilla Batorfi/Krisztina Toth (Hungary) beat Shirley Zhou/Stella Zhou (Australia) 21-8 21-17  
Hyang Kim/Mi Son (north Korea) beat Chen Chiu-Tan/Chen Jing (Taiwan) 11-21 22-20 21-17  
Men's doubles round-robin phase:  
Andrey Mazunov/Dmitriy Mazunov (Russia) beat Jim Butler/Todd Sweetser (U.S.) 21-14 21-12  
Chul-Seung Lee/Nam-Kyu Yoo (South Korea) beat Vladimir Samsonov/Yevgeniy Shechetin (Belarus) 21-15 21-10

**Beach volleyball**  
**Men's second round:**  
Marek Pakosta/Michal Palinek (Czech Republic) beat Miguel Angel Martin Prieto/Javier Yuste Muniz (Spain) 15-11

**Women's second round**  
Audrey Cooper/Amanda Glover (Britain) beat Lisette Van Deven/Deborah Schoon Kadijk (Netherlands) 15-12

**Swimming**  
men's 4x100 metres freestyle relay final  
1. U.S.  
2. Russia  
3. Germany  
4. Brazil  
5. Netherlands  
6. Australia  
7. Sweden  
8. Britain

**Men's 100 metres backstroke final:**  
1. Jeff Rouse (U.S.)  
2. Rodolfo Falcon Cabrera (Cuba) 54.98  
3. Neisser Bent (Cuba) 55.02  
4. Martin Lopez-Zubero (Spain) 55.22  
5. Tripp Schwenk (U.S.) 55.30  
6. Emanuele Merisi (Italy) 55.53  
7. Ralf Braun (Germany) 55.56  
8. Franck Schott (France) 55.76

**Women's 100 metres butterfly final:**  
1. Amy Van Dyken (U.S.) 59.13  
2. Limin Liu (China) 59.14  
3. Angel Martino (U.S.) 59.23  
4. Hitomi Kashima (Japan) 1:00.11  
5. Susan O'Neill (Australia) 1:00.17  
6. Ayari Aoyama (Japan) 1:00.18  
7. Huijue Cai (China) 1:00.46

**8. Mette Jacobsen (Denmark) 1:00.76**

**Women's 200 metres breaststroke final:**  
1. Penelope Heyns (South Africa) 2:25.41  
2. Amanda Beard (U.S.) 2:25.75  
3. Agnes Kovacs (Hungary) 2:26.57  
4. Samantha Riley (Australia) 2:27.91  
5. Masami Tanaka (Japan) 2:28.05  
6. Nadine Neumann (Australia) 2:28.34  
7. Brigitte Becue (Belgium) 2:28.36  
8. Christin Petelski (Canada) 2:31.45

**Weightlifting**  
70 kg event  
1. Zhang Xugang (China) snatch 162.5 kg (world record), clean and jerk 195.0 kg (world record), total 357.5 kg (world record)  
2. Kim Myong-Nam (North Korea) 160.0 185.0 345.0  
3. Atilla Feri (Hungary) 152.5 187.5 340.0  
4. Plamen Zhelyazkov (Bulgaria) 155.0 180.0 335.0  
5. Abdelmanaame Yahiaoui (Algeria) 150.0 185.0 335.0  
6. Israyel Miliosian (Armenia) 152.5 182.5 335.0  
7. Wan Jianhui (China) 152.5 180.0 332.5  
8. Idalberto Aranda (Cuba)

**Water polo**  
Preliminary round, Group B:  
U.S. 10 Romania 5 (2-0 4-1 3-1 1-3)  
**Soccer**  
Women's preliminary, Group A:  
United States 2, Sweden 1 (halftime 1-0)  
China 5 Denmark 1 (halftime 4-0)  
Group B:  
Brazil 2 Japan 0 (halftime 0-0)  
Norway 3, Germany 2 (halftime 2-1)  
**Men's preliminary, Group D**  
Brazil 3 Hungary 1 (halftime 1-0)  
Group C:  
Mexico 0, South Korea 0  
Ghana 3 Italy 2 (halftime 1-2)  
Group D:  
Nigeria 2, Japan 0 (halftime 0-0)  
**Volleyball**  
Group A:  
Bulgaria 3, Brazil 0 (15-11 15-13 15-8)  
26.0  
-Peter Kilapa (Papua New Guinea) 120.0 -  
-Gabor Molnar (Hungary) -  
-Gabriel Lemme (Argentina)

**Baseball**  
Preliminary round  
Australia 9, Japan 6  
**Softball**  
Puerto Rico 2, Australia 0  
United States 6, Japan 1 (0-0)  
**Hockey**  
Women's preliminary round, Group A:  
Britain 1, United States 0 (halftime 0-0)  
Men's preliminary round, Group B:  
Australia 3, South Korea 2 (halftime 2-2)

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5:00 p.m.

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Dumb and Dumber  
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CONCORD "2"  
**BRAVEHEART**  
Shows: 3:45, 6:45, 9:45

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Sports

Schedule of events at Atlanta Olympics

THURSDAY, JULY 25

BADMINTON  
Men and Women's doubles, 1st round  
Men's singles, 2nd round  
Men's doubles, 2nd round  
Men's singles, 2nd round

BASEBALL  
Netherlands vs. Nicaragua  
Australia vs. Italy  
Japan vs. U.S.  
South Korea vs. Ukraine  
Brazil vs. Australia  
Japan vs. China  
Canada vs. China

EACH VOLLEYBALL  
Men's and Women's preliminary

BOXING  
welterweight, 1st round  
heavyweight, 1st round

CYCLING  
Women's individual pursuit, qualification  
Men's individual pursuit, semifinals and finals  
Men's sprint, 2nd round  
Women's sprint, 1st round  
Women's sprint, 2nd round

EQUESTRIAN  
Open, three day individual endurance, team and individual jumping

FENCING  
Men's and Women's team foil, 1st round to medal

GYMNASTICS  
Women's individual all-around, final

JUDO  
Men's and women's half-lightweight, prelims  
repechage and finals

SHOOTING  
Men's 50-metre free rifle, prelims to finals  
Men's 10-metre running target, prelims  
Men's 25-metre rapid fire pistol, prelims to finals

SOCCER  
(Men)  
Brazil vs. Nigeria  
Japan vs. Hungary  
China vs. Australia  
South Korea vs. Italy  
(Women)  
China vs. U.S.  
Denmark vs. Sweden  
Norway vs. Japan  
Brazil vs. Germany

SWIMMING  
Men's 50 freestyle, prelims to finals  
Women's 200 backstroke, prelims to finals  
Men's 200 individual medley, prelims to finals  
Women's 800 freestyle relay, prelims to finals  
Men's 1500 freestyle, prelims to finals

TABLE TENNIS  
Men's and Women's singles

TEAM HANDBALL  
(Men)  
Kazakhstan vs. Croatia  
Algeria vs. France  
Switzerland vs. Sweden  
European champion vs. Germany  
Cuba vs. Egypt  
U.S. vs. Russia

TENNIS  
Men's and Women's singles, 2nd round  
Men's and Women's doubles, 1st round

VOLLEYBALL  
(Men)  
Bulgaria vs. Argentina  
Netherlands vs. Italy  
Poland vs. Brazil  
Tunisia vs. Yugoslavia  
U.S. vs. Cuba  
South Korea vs. Russia

FRIDAY, JULY 26

ATHLETICS  
Men's 20km race walk, final  
Men's high jump, qualifying  
Women's 100, 1st and 2nd round  
Men's shot put, qualifying to finals  
Men's 100, 1st and 2nd round  
Women's 400, 1st round  
Women's javelin throw, qualifying  
Men's triple jump, qualifying  
Men's 400 1st round  
Women's 5,000, 1st round  
BADMINTON  
Women's singles, 2nd round  
Men's singles, 3rd round  
Women's singles, 2nd round  
Women's and Men's mixed doubles, 1st round

BASKETBALL  
Puerto Rico vs. Australia



## Schedule of events at Atlanta Olympics

### THURSDAY, JULY 25

**BADMINTON**  
Men and Women's doubles, 1st round

Men's singles, 2nd round  
Men's doubles, 2nd round  
Men's singles, 2nd round

**BASEBALL**  
Netherlands vs. Nicaragua  
Australia vs. Italy

**BASKETBALL**  
Italy vs. Russia  
U.S. vs. Zaire

South Korea vs. Ukraine  
Cuba vs. Australia  
Brazil vs. Japan

Canada vs. China  
**BEACH VOLLEYBALL**  
Men's and Women's prelims

**BOXING**  
Bantamweight, welterweight and heavyweight second round

**CYCLING**  
Women's individual pursuit, qualification

Men's individual pursuit, semifinals and finals  
Men's sprint, 2nd round and repechage

Women's sprint, 1st round and repechage  
**EQUESTRIAN**  
Open, three day individual endurance

Open, team and individual jumping  
**FENCING**  
Men's and Women's team foil, 1st round to medal bouts

**GYMNASTICS**  
Women's individual all-around, finals

**JUDO**  
Men's and women's half-lightweight, prelims, repechage and finals

**SHOOTING**  
Men's 50-metre free rifle prone, prelims to finals

Men's 10-metre running target, prelims  
Men's 25-metre rapid fire pistol, prelims to finals

**SOCCER**  
(Men)  
Brazil vs. Nigeria

Japan vs. Hungary  
Ghana vs. Australia  
South Korea vs. Italy

(Women)  
China vs. U.S.  
Denmark vs. Sweden

Norway vs. Japan  
Brazil vs. Germany  
**SWIMMING**

Men's 50 freestyle, prelims to finals  
Women's 200 backstroke, prelims to finals

Men's 200 individual medley, prelims to finals  
Women's 800 freestyle relay, prelims to finals

Men's 1500 freestyle, prelims to finals  
**TABLE TENNIS**  
Men's and Women's singles

Men's and Women's doubles  
**TEAM HANDBALL**  
(Men)

Kuwait vs. Croatia  
Algeria vs. France  
Switzerland vs. Sweden

European champion vs. Germany  
Cuba vs. Egypt  
U.S. vs. Russia

**TENNIS**  
Men's and Women's singles, 2nd round

Men's and Women's doubles, 1st round  
**VOLLEYBALL**  
(Men)

Bulgaria vs. Argentina  
Netherlands vs. Italy  
Poland vs. Brazil

Tunisia vs. Yugoslavia  
U.S. vs. Cuba  
South Korea vs. Russia

**FRIDAY, JULY 26**  
**ATHLETICS**  
Men's 20km race walk, final

Men's high jump, qualifying  
Women's 100, 1st and 2nd round

Men's shot put, qualifying to finals  
Men's 100, 1st and 2nd round

Women's 400, 1st round  
Women's javelin throw, qualifying

Men's triple jump, qualifying  
Men's 400 1st round  
Women's 5,000, 1st round

Men's 10,000 1st round  
**BADMINTON**  
Women's singles, 2nd round

Men's singles, 3rd round  
Women's singles, 2nd round

Women's and Men's mixed doubles, 1st round  
**BASKETBALL**  
Puerto Rico vs. Australia



Atlanta 1996

Angola vs. Lithuania  
South Korea vs. Greece

Brazil vs. Yugoslavia  
Argentina vs. Croatia  
U.S. vs. China

**BEACH VOLLEYBALL**  
Men's prelims  
Women's team, semifinals

**BOXING**  
Light flyweight, lightweight, and middleweight, 2nd round

**CYCLING**  
Men's team pursuit, qualification to quarter-finals

Women's sprint, quarter and semifinals  
Men's sprint, 3rd round

Men's sprint, repechage  
Women's individual pursuit, quarterfinals

**DIVING**  
Women's platform, prelims

**EQUESTRIAN**  
Open, three day individual jumping

**JUDO**  
Men's and women's extra lightweight, prelims, repechage and finals

**SHOOTING**  
Women's 25-metre sport pistol, prelims (precision and rapid fire), prelims to finals

Men's 10-metre running target, prelims to finals  
Men's skeet, prelims

**SWIMMING**  
Women's 200 butterfly, prelims to finals

Men's 200 backstroke, prelims to finals  
Women's 50 freestyle, prelims to finals

Men's 400 medley relay, prelims to finals  
Men's 1,500 freestyle, prelims to finals

**TABLE TENNIS**  
Men's singles  
Women's singles

Women's doubles, quarterfinals  
**TEAM HANDBALL**  
(Women)

Hungary vs. China  
Norway vs. Angola  
Denmark vs. U.S.

South Korea vs. Germany  
**TENNIS**  
Men's and Women's singles, 2nd round

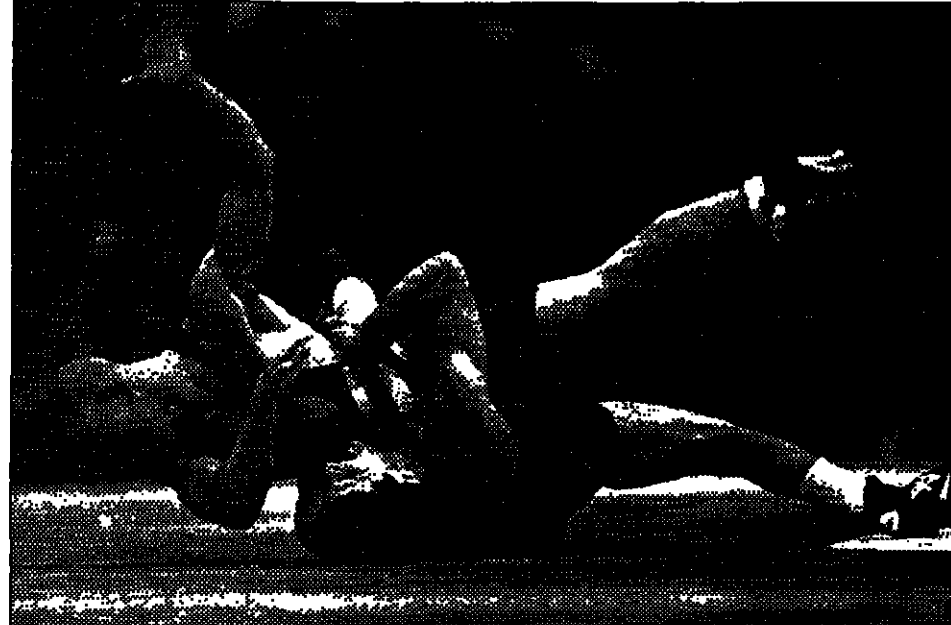
Men's and Women's doubles, 1st round  
**WATER POLO**  
6th-place to finals

**VOLLEYBALL**  
(Women)  
Russia vs. Peru

Netherlands vs. South Korea  
China vs. Ukraine  
Germany vs. Cuba

U.S. vs. Japan  
Canada vs. Brazil  
**WEIGHTLIFTING**  
83kg, Group B

83kg, Group A finals  
**YACHTING**  
Men's 470 and Women's 470 3rd and 4th races



Armenia's Armen Nazaryan (bottom) and USA's Brandon Paulson wrestle during the 52kg weight class competition July 23. Nazaryan won the gold medal and Paulson took the silver (Reuters photo)



United States swimmer Amy Van Dyken celebrates her gold medal in the women's 100m butterfly at the Centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta. Van Dyken won the race with a time of 59.13 (Reuters photo)

## Heyns, Loader celebrate golden doubles

ATLANTA (R) — South Africa's Penny Heyns and New Zealander Danyon Loader celebrated golden Olympic doubles on Tuesday and the United States' Kristi Waterhouse and Jeff Rouse, denied gold at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, finally won the Olympic title he had set his heart on with an unchallenged victory in the men's 100 metres backstroke.

Fellow American Amy Van Dyken pipped Chinese world champion Liu Limin by one hundredth of a second in a thrilling battle in the women's 100 metres butterfly.

And Gary Hall completed an American rapture with a superb anchor leg which brought the U.S. the Olympic men's 4x100 metres freestyle title for the

seventh time out of seven. Heyns, who gave South Africa their first Olympic gold for 44 years in the women's 100 metres breaststroke, on Sunday, made sure her compatriots did not have to wait so long for the next by winning the 200 breaststroke, too.

"I don't think I could be prouder to be a South African," said Heyns, the first of her nation to win two Olympic golds.

"I didn't care what colour it was, I just wanted a medal," Beard, who also took the silver in the 100, said. "On the last length I told myself 'it doesn't matter how hard it hurts, I'll feel better in five minutes.'"

Loader, 200 butterfly silver medalist at the Barcelona Olympics, proved himself Atlanta's king of middle distance

freestyle by adding the 400 title to the 200 gold he won last Saturday.

The 21-year-old New Zealander took control 100 metres from home after first Swedish veteran Anders Holmertz and then Britain's Paul Palmer had set the pace.

In the absence of world record holder Kieren Perkins, the world champion who failed to qualify for the event at the Australian trials, Loader won in 3:47.97.

Palmer was second in 3:49.00 and Australia's Daniel Kowalski third in 3:49.39. Loader, unemotional in victory, said: "After the 200 I was pretty much down to Earth again. I knew I had a couple of races to go."

## Ghneim fails to match own 200m individual medley record

Jordan competes in athletics, shooting Friday

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

JORDAN'S MIRA Ghneim Wednesday failed to match her own record in the 200 metres individual medley when she competed alongside swimmers from Kazakhstan and Indonesia on the fifth day of the Atlanta Olympic Games.

Ghneim finished the event with a time of 2:56.99, 6.83 seconds behind her Jordanian record. The swimmer from Kazakhstan finished with a time of 2:26.42 while the Indonesian had a time of 2:37.38. The world and Olympic record holder in the event is China's Li Lyn at 2:11.65.

Jordan's first athlete in competition at the Centennial Games was swimmer Omar Dallal who Tuesday set a Jordanian record in the 400 metres freestyle.

Dallal's time broke the Jordanian record set by one of the country's most prominent swimmers — Amer Al Wazani — as he finished the event with a time of 4:41.12 seconds slashing 6.50 seconds of the previous record.

While finishing the event in last place, the 15-year-old Dallal broke his own record in the event by 15.86 seconds. His record in the event stood at 4:56.98.

The best time in the event is American Tom Dolan's 3:48.99 while the best Arab record belongs to Egypt's Hisham Al Masri at 3:59.11.

The other Jordanian athletes in athletics and shooting start competition Friday.

Jordan's Walid Al Awazem was disqualified Sunday after failing to show up at the weigh-in prior to the competition.

## Women's basketball championship

### Ahli win opening match; Jazireh meet Orthodoxi tonight

By Aileen Bannayan Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Kingdom's women's basketball competition opened on a high note Tuesday. Al Ahli upset former champions Al Orthodoxi 69-63 promising an interesting tournament for fans of the game.

Al Ahli's win makes Al Orthodoxi's task of trying to win back their title a bit harder as they will next face reigning champions Al Jazireh who are aiming for their third tournament win in a month.

Al Jazireh won a four-team friendly tourney organised by Al Orthodoxi last week and also beat three top Syrian teams in a preparatory tournament in Aleppo earlier this month.

They next face Al Orthodoxi on Thursday at the latter's court as the Sports Palace is occupied with table tennis matches.

Al Ahli's new lineup of players were led by Ruwa' Hijazi and Tetyana Qardan who took their team's lead from 19-15 midway through the half to 31-18 with four minutes remaining. Al Ahli managed to end the half 36-24.

However, the second half,

witnessed an explosive start by Al Orthodoxi, led by a young lineup who are mostly members of Jordan's under-18 national team, as they narrowed the gap after a series of turnovers and came within just two points of Al Ahli at 38-36 before Al Ahli again took the lead at 47-38.

Al Orthodoxi seemed determined not to let go as Luma Abu Judum scored six of the next 10 points to give her team a 48-47 lead which she expanded to 51-47.

However, Al Ahli then scored 13 consecutive points by Qardan and Hijazi to lead 60-53 while Al Orthodoxi seemed to lack accurate finishing and were unable to keep control of the match.

Hind Al Ghouri rebounded and scored for Al Orthodoxi who tried to narrow the gap to 65-60 in the final two minutes. Abu Judum added another three points but Al Ahli kept on scoring to keep their lead and win the match 69-63 for their first win over their all-time rivals in recent history.

The tournament's next match will be Al Jazireh-Al Orthodoxi clash on Thursday (today). The titlehold-

ers will be missing centres Jumana Salti through injury and Dima Shaded, however, they might very well be the favourite to win the tournament after their recent results and players' match experience. The team includes Rana Hussein, Suhair Makusi, Hala Muheisen, Tala Al Mange, Andra Kasesieh, Rania Dajani.

Al Orthodoxi have a new team mostly of under-18 players who represented Jordan in the Asian Championship recently. They include Lubna Masri, Jumana Awad, Nadine Kashkash, Luma Abu Judum, Tala Fakhoury and team captain Hind Al Ghouri. The team is playing without veteran players like Dima and Ghada Kandah, Jihan Abdelnour and Carol Seikaly.

Al Ahli, includes Sirsa Abaza, Tetyana Qardan, Sirsa Nagnaway, Hiba Enabeh, Rana Saeed and Ruwa' Hijazi.

Al Jazireh had first won the country's women's championship from Al Orthodoxi in 1993 before losing it in 1994 when they pulled out of the championship before reclaiming it last year.

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# Government insists it adopted best solution in dealing with subsidies

By Samir Ghawi  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The government is considering a "top-down" approach with coming from the people in the market, behind the market prices and the financial burden on the government.

Mr. Sobar said the government's policy of subsidising wheat is the best solution to the problem of bread prices.

His statement came during a meeting held at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, attended by Information Minister Marwan Muasher, Amman Chamber of Commerce President Haidar Marad, Consumer Protection Society President Mohamad Obeidat, Bakers' Owners Association President Abdul Elah Al Hamawi.

But Dr. Muasher rejected accusations that the government has not informed and clarified the situation prompting a hike in the prices of bread to the public and referred to the meeting that the prime minister held with members of Lower House of Parliament and the full television coverage of that meeting in addition to the press conference which the prime minister gave to discuss the issue.

Dr. Muasher said at the meeting in Al Rai that the 1996 budget allocated JD 38 million to cover all of the subsidies but the amount was fully used by March and that since then the Cabinet has been studying and examining all

possible means and alternatives to address this problem. He stressed that the cash hand-out compensating people for the raise in bread prices through an "effective mechanism" was found to be the best solution to the problem and the interests of the government.

Mr. Sobar explained that the international price of wheat was soared in 1995 and 1996 reaching the equivalent of JD 202 per tonne and, by adding transportation, storage, distribution and other costs, the cost per tonne rises to JD 255 per tonne. This has raised the subsidy bill to JD 195 million, while the budget allocated only JD 38 million, leaving a JD 160 million deficit.

The minister of supply pointed out that Jordan's consumption of flour was between 660,000 tonnes and 680,000 tonnes, including 40,000 tonnes from local production, and that the volume translates into 168 kilograms per person. He said that the consumption per individual in neighbouring countries (Syria, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia) was only about 100 kilograms per person.

Mr. Sobar said that the "new method for giving the subsidy" would exclude foreign workers and tourists and would stop waste and misuse. He detailed the studies conducted by the ministry showing that 400,000 of non-Jordanian labourers consume the same amount as 220,000 families or, in other words, "every two foreign workers consume as much as one whole Jordanian family."

By excluding about 1.2 million tourists from the list of beneficiaries from subsidies, the ministry also hopes to save

the cost of subsidising 10 loaves of bread which are estimated as the consumption of each tourist during a four-night stay in Jordan.

Waste was estimated by the ministry studies at 3/4 of a loaf by each Jordanian family per day. This translates into one kilogramme per week per family or one million kilogrammes of bread a year for the whole country. The amount works out to be 52,000 tonnes of flour per year or a waste of 17 per cent of Jordanian consumption.

The minister did not give a figure for the volume of flour or bread that farmers use for feeding their cattle but indicated that all the four categories (foreign workers, tourists, waste and misuse) account for about 30 per cent of total consumption which the government is trying to bring down to some 400,000 tonnes from the present volume that exceeds 660,000 tonnes.

The cash subsidy was calculated by the ministry to be JD 1.280 per person each month based on the cost of 250 fils per kilogramme although the actual full cost borne by the government will be 250 fils per kilogramme, he said. The poor families who are estimated to be around 42,000 and who are registered with the National Aid Fund will receive full reimbursement for the higher cost or, in other words, the full cost of the bread, Mr. Sobar explained.

He said that as it stands now, the people were only paying 25 per cent of the cost of bread while the government was paying the 75 per cent in the form of subsidy.

Dr. Muasher stressed that there was no way the problem could be overlooked and that

(Continued on page 7)



PALESTINIAN CHILDREN SELL CAKE IN GAZA: Palestinian children sell cake to raise money to help their families in the Gaza Strip Wednesday. Thousands of Palestinian children have been forced into the labour market because their fathers have lost jobs in Israel (Reuters photo)

## War crimes investigators expose more graves in eastern Bosnia

NOVA KASABA, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AFP) — U.N. war crimes investigators Wednesday exposed two more mass graves at this site near Srebrenica, in eastern Bosnia, believed to contain the bodies of hundreds of slain Muslims.

William Haglund, the leader of the team linked to the International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia (ICTY), said they had uncovered a total of four graves at the grassy site, a few kilometres west of the former U.N. safe haven.

"We have two locations in two separate sites. There are some remains in each of these sites, how many I do not know," he said.

Seven bodies have so far been removed from one grave, and another has so far been shown to contain at least a dozen bodies.

The bodies lie in a mangled heap in the grave, some on their backs and others on their front. Most are well preserved, with some flesh and hair still visible.

"The actual number (of bodies) is not totalled until we get the surface bodies off, which will happen tomorrow," Mr. Haglund said.

"Each of these graves has different logistical potential. The problem is having to be here in the first place. The problem is that these people are dead," he added.

In the small grave close to the roadside, one skeleton, partially clothed, could be seen Wednesday. Out of a pair of light brown laced-up walking boots, jutted two bare legbones, one at an awkward angle.

Wednesday morning, two U.N. investigators carefully brushed away loose earth to reveal the skull, its jaw gaping wide open.

A local Serb worker did the heavy work, shovelling top soil away in the area around the skeleton. Everyone worked silently.

The work at Nova Kasaba is intended to probe for evidence to back claims made to the ICTY in the Hague of the mass executions of Muslim men following the fall of Srebrenica to the Serbs last year.

According to a recent U.N. report, at least 3,000 and possibly up to 8,000 Muslim men were killed by the Serbs after being captured following the fall of the town.

Serb leaders, who deny any killings of civilians or prisoners, have been indicted over the allegations.

Nine of the remains found at Nova Kasaba so far have been found with their hands wired behind their backs, U.N. spokesman Alexander Ivanko said in Sarajevo.

Over the next couple of months, investigators are expected to excavate around seven more sites dotted around Bosnia and Croatia to further the Srebrenica investigation and the probes into alleged atrocities committed elsewhere in the former

Yugoslavia.

The return of wintry weather will then force an end to the operations, Mr. Haglund said.

The NATO-led Peace Implementation Force (IFOR) maintains a light presence in the area.

Captain Tawana Brown, a U.S. IFOR spokeswoman said there had been no challenge by local Serbs to the work at the site.

"We have had a lot of people stopping and looking but that's not been a challenge," she said.

The site itself lies close to a main road and vehicles slow as they pass to allow people to peer down at the U.N. workers just metres away.

Wrecked and roofless houses close by are testimony to earlier ethnic cleansing in eastern Bosnia.

In Sarajevo, Ivanko said the Serbs working with the U.N. team had been "harassed and threatened," but did not detail the intimidation.

U.N. inspectors said to enter Saddam's palace

CAIRO (AP) — U.N. inspectors looking for weapons of mass destruction hidden in Iraq went into a palace of President Saddam Hussein this week after a standoff with Republican Guards, Iraqi dissidents said Wednesday.

It is the first time U.N. inspectors are reported to have been in one of President Saddam's numerous palaces since they started their mission following the 1991 Gulf war.

The dissidents, speaking from Amman on condition of anonymity, said seven U.N. inspectors spent at least three hours last Sunday in President Saddam's biggest palace near Baghdad's international airport.

But they said neither President Saddam nor any of his immediate family members were in the palace when the inspectors headed by Russian missile expert Nikita Smidovich carried out the search.

Iraqi guards first blocked inspectors from the site July 16, claiming the route passed through a "presidential area" forbidden to foreigners.

But on Sunday, deputy chief inspector Charles Duelfer said that Iraqi officials escorted U.N. weapons inspectors to the site near Baghdad airport, but he did not specify it was one of President Saddam's palaces.

The dissident sources said an agreement was reached to allow the inspectors into the palace after U.N. threats, but that a condition of the visit was the inspection would not be publicised.

The sources said the inspectors were evicted by the Republican Guards who protect President Saddam when, after three hours, they tried to inspect tunnels and cellars they had found by chance during their survey.

The palace called "Saqr Al Qadissiyya," or Eagle of Qadissiyya, was built during the 1980-1988 war with Iran, which President Saddam often referred to as the Qadissiyya War after the 7th century Muslim conquest of Persia.

Iraqi opposition groups and foreign diplomats have claimed that President Saddam has built more than 100 palaces or houses in and around Baghdad as places to hide from would-be assassins.

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### Battling Thai girlfriends quality for games

BANGKOK (R) — Dogged perseverance finally paid off for two young Thai women desperate to get to the Olympic Games in Atlanta. Against all the odds the two from Thailand's poor northeast region finally qualified for visas to travel to the United States to cheer on their boxing girlfriends. The Thai Boxing Association, the Thai Air Force and a local news agency, the Independent News Network (INN), sponsored a trip for a few family members of Thailand's six-man boxing team to travel to Atlanta to support their loved ones. While the mothers and wives won U.S. tourist visas the girlfriends of two of Thailand's boxers ran into opposition because the pair did not have proof of income sufficient to qualify for U.S. travel documents, Somchai Sawaengkam of INN told Reuters. But the determined duo refused to throw in the towel. They battled on for three days until the U.S. embassy finally gave them the documents, Mr. Somchai said Wednesday. The party was headed for Atlanta Thursday, he said. Thailand's medal hopes rest entirely on its boxing team, sports officials say.

Thai premier asks ministers to wear Thai ties

BANGKOK (R) — Thai Prime Minister Banham Silpa-Archa is encouraging ministers to help the nation's economy by wearing Thai silk neckties and locally made shoes instead of imported ones, local media reported. Mr. Banham's drive was part of a government policy to try and encourage people to stop spending so much on imported luxury goods in a bid to fight the country's worrisome import bill. But the campaign got off to a mixed start as only a handful of his ministers at a cabinet meeting on Tuesday wore the Banham-signature silk ties he gave them last week.

Aussie basketball team go for sex appeal to lure fans

ATLANTA (R) — The Australian women's Olympic basketball team is using a little sex appeal to attract the fans. The Aussies are wearing skintight body suits, an eye-catching contrast to the baggy long shorts and shirts most basketball teams — men and women — wear these days. "The Australian team wanted to try it as a way to get people to come and watch us play," guard Sandy Brondello explained. "On my European professional team, I wear the loose shorts and shirts and actually find the body suit to be just as comfortable as those."

Haunting Didgeridoo makes Olympic history

ATLANTA (R) — Australian Ruth Moniz introduced the haunting sound of the Didgeridoo, Olympic gymnastics for the first time as a tribute to aboriginals. "Giving the instrument its Olympic debut in the floor routine, the 19-year-old whose parents come from East Timor said: 'I wanted to choose something from Australia and from our ancestors.' As the aboriginals were the first people of Australia I chose the Didgeridoo as a mark of respect for them to honour them. I know I'm the first gymnast to use it in the Olympics." The choice worked. The crowd gave her a rousing reception and Moniz won through to the individual finals.

Bundestag president ends visit

AOABA (Petra) — President of German Parliament (Bundestag) Rita Suessmuth left Jordan Friday after a four-day visit during which she was received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and held talks with Prime Minister Abd al Karim Kabarini, acting Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament, Zeid Rifai. Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Sa'd Hayel Srouf and other senior Jordanian officials.

Arafat to visit S. Arabia

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat is to visit Saudi Arabia on Sunday for talks with King Fahd and Crown Prince Abdullah. Mr. Arafat's spokesman said, during his two-day stay, Mr. Arafat will discuss the "latest developments concerning the Palestinian question," said Nabil Abu Rudeina.

Hijacked Iberia jet lands in Miami

MIAMI (R) — An Iberia Airlines DC-10 jet believed to have 231 people on board landed safely at Miami International airport on Friday after a hijacker threatened it on a flight from Madrid to Havana. Police and other officials at the airport initially stayed away from the plane after it taxied from the runway, and local television reported that the hijacker had asked to surrender. Police and federal aviation administration officials confirmed that Iberia Airlines Flight 6621 from Madrid to Havana was enroute to Miami after it was hijacked.

Israeli demands closure of occupied Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israel on Friday demanded a total blockade on the West Bank and Gaza Strip after Palestinian militants shot dead an Israeli man and his daughter-in-law inside the Jewish state's army announced.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ordered security forces to use the most sophisticated means available "to do everything to find the commandos who carried out this attack," Israel Radio said.

And he called on Palestinian President Yasser Arafat to "fight against all groups preaching terrorism," even those which are part of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

But Mr. Arafat said he had no information about the deadly shooting which happened before dawn Friday on the road between Ben Shimon and Kfar Zakariya, south of Jerusalem, within Israel.

He condemned the "repeated closure of the occupied territories as another breach of what has been agreed on" referring to the autonomy accords between Israel and the Palestinians.

Gummen in a white Subaru sprayed another car with automatic gun fire

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Rifai stresses importance of Netanyahu visit

TEL AVIV (Petra) — Jordan's ambassador to Israel Omar Rifai said Wednesday that talks Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will hold during his visit to Jordan will focus on means of resuming peace talks on all tracks. Israeli Radio quoted Mr. Rifai as saying that Jordan looks forward to a comprehensive settlement between Israel and all its Arab neighbours. "The Jordan-Israel peace treaty is holding and the two sides are implementing all its provisions," said Mr. Rifai, adding that the recent political changes in Israel have no impact on Jordanian-Israeli relations. He expressed his satisfaction with the outcome of the meeting held between Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy stressing the need for a settlement of the Palestinian problem which lies at the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Mr. Netanyahu was scheduled to visit Jordan Wednesday but the trip has been postponed. No new date has been set for the visit.

### Demirel: Syria of backing 'terrorists'

CAIRO (AFP) — Turkish President Suleyman Demirel, in an interview published here Wednesday, accused Syria of seeking to "destabilise" Turkey in a bid to win concessions in the two country's dispute over water. "Syria seems to be more concerned with destabilising and weakening Turkey in order to force it to accept preconditions in the water issue," Mr. Demirel told the Egyptian government weekly Al-Musawwar. "To do this it supports the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), which all Turks see as a terrorist group, and it also effectively supports all other organisations seeking to change the Turkish government," he said. Mr. Demirel said Damascus must "stop supporting terrorist organisations, then we can find a common ground for true cooperation between our countries." Syria has denied backing the PKK, which is waging an armed campaign for an independent Kurdish homeland in southeast Turkey. Damascus accuses Ankara of cutting down its water supplies from the Euphrates River.

### Woman held by Israel to run in elections

BEIRUT (AFP) — A committee of support for prisoners detained by Israel proposed on Wednesday that a Lebanese woman imprisoned since 1988 be a candidate in next month's parliamentary elections. A statement carried by the state-run National News Agency (ANA) said that Soha Beshara should run for the Greek-Orthodox seat in the district of South Lebanon. Ms. Beshara, a former member of the Lebanese Communist Party, has been held in Khiam Prison, in the Israeli-occupied "security zone" of South Lebanon, without trial since 1988. She was jailed after she shot and severely wounded the head of Israel's proxy South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia in South Lebanon, retired Lebanese Army General Antoine Lahd. According to Hizbollah, Beshara is the only woman in the notorious Khiam Jail.

### Blast at phosphate plant kills two

CAIRO (AFP) — A blast at the explosives depot of a phosphate plant near the southern town of Aswan killed two security officials and injured two others on Wednesday, the Egyptian news agency MENA said. The explosion was caused when an "unknown body" near the depot blew up after one of the depot guards ran into it in the Nasr phosphate plant at Wadi Al Elqani near Aswan, 930 kilometres south of Cairo, MENA said. Al Diba Mohammed Abdel Hadi, a soldier, and Ibrahim Mohammed Osman, a private guard, were killed in the blast, and two others were injured, it said. Officials were investigating to determine the exact source of the explosion, it said.

## 23 more die as fighting intensifies in Mogadishu

MOGADISHU (AFP) — At least 23 people died and 35 others were wounded in heavy fighting in south Mogadishu's Medina district on Wednesday, hospital sources said.

Other sources from the battlefield said that during the fighting, which resumed after a few hours of calm in the morning, the forces of warlord General Mohammed Farah Aidede captured new territory inside Medina from forces loyal to his arch-rival, self-styled interim Somali President Ali Mahdi Muhammad. The battlefield sources said Gen. Aidede's forces had separated the militiamen of Ali Mahdi from those of his ally Osman Hassan Ali "Atto". Gen. Aidede's former financier turned bitter political enemy.

TEL AVIV (AP) — Shimon Peres, out of office and facing an uncertain political future, sees Syria behind his misfortunes.

Mr. Peres faulted Syrian President Hafez Assad for being too cautious and too slow and failing to pick up on his proposal to speed up negotiations with a summit.

"When you have a horse race, you cannot have the mentality of a turtle and say the armour on my back will replace the speed of my legs. It doesn't make sense," Mr. Peres told the Associated Press in an interview Monday.

Had Mr. Assad agreed to meet often enough in direct negotiations with Israel, instead of by proxy through American mediation, Mr. Peres said he would not have called early elections. And he would still be prime minister.

Mr. Peres spoke in a borrowed office, with an imitation oak desk spotted by coffee cup rings and most of his bookshelves empty — a sign of the hard fall from power. Many of his former allies in the Labour Party now want Mr. Peres, who has lost four elections since 1977, to step down as party leader. In a voice tinged with sadness but no

anger, the 72-year-old Nobel Peace Prize laureate said he would not go easily into political exile. He said he planned to be an active opposition leader and that he had not given up his quest for Mideast peace.

"Winners don't quit, and quitters don't win. Surely, I wouldn't like to become a quitter and lose," he said.

Mr. Peres said right-wing rival Benjamin Netanyahu came to power partly because Labour had not built a bridge to Israel's orthodox religious community and also because of outside influences such as Mr. Assad's "over-cautiousness."

Mr. Peres recalled writing to Mr. Assad early this year, urging him to speed up the process and join in a peacemaking summit.

To make his case, Mr. Peres chose an aviation image to appeal to Mr. Assad, a former air force chief, and quoted the French author Andre Malraux, himself a pilot.

"Malraux says mothers whose children are pilots are praying all the time that they will fly low and slow. They don't understand that to fly high and fast is safer. So I told (Assad): Let me know — do you want to fly low and

slow or do you want to fly high and fast? If you want to fly high and fast, I am a partner."

"I got a reply: 'I am ready to meet, but I cannot quote a date,'" Mr. Peres quoted Mr. Assad as saying.

Calling elections in the midst of negotiations with Syria would have been politically unwise, Mr. Peres said. But with talks going nowhere, there was no reason not to advance the date from November to May 29. At the time, Mr. Peres was 16 points ahead in the polls, riding a wave of sympathy after the assassination of his predecessor, Yitzhak Rabin, by a right-wing extremist. Faulting Mr. Assad was an unusual move for Mr. Peres, who while in office tried to avoid jeopardising peace negotiations.

But on Monday, Mr. Peres said he saw a Syrian hand in the shelling of northern Israel by the Shiite Muslim Hizbollah guerrillas in April, which set off a chain of events he felt contributed to his defeat.

Mr. Peres recalled turning to Syria via American mediators to halt Hizbollah attacks. "The Syrians said, 'OK, there will be a cease-fire.' And on the next day, instead of a cease-fire,

they continued to shoot."

This, Mr. Peres said, left him no choice but to launch "Operation Grapes of Wrath," the air and artillery blitz of Lebanon that led to Israel's shelling of the U.N. base and the deaths of 91 Lebanese civilians.

The shelling angered Arabs throughout the Mideast and prompted many to question Israel's sincerity about peace, including Israeli Arabs who withheld their support for Mr. Peres in Israel's election. Mr. Peres said Monday that the Lebanon campaign cost him most of the 29,000 votes by which he lost to Mr. Netanyahu.

Even so, Mr. Peres said he believed Mr. Netanyahu would make a serious mistake if he did not pursue an agreement with Syria. The new government has said it will not follow in Mr. Peres' footsteps and wants to keep the captured Golan Heights, the key trading card in Israel-Syria talks.

"Clearly, we shouldn't exclude the Syrians," Mr. Peres said. "In politics, like in economy, you must be very careful not to create unemployment. I wouldn't like to see an unemployed Syria. I think it's dangerous for her. I think it's dangerous for us."

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